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THE HINDU

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NEARBY

Tender for biomining of mixed waste cleared

BENGALURU

Nearly a decade after dumping of city's waste was stopped following a protest led by freedom fighter H.S. Doreswamy in 2014, the city administration has finally cleared a tender for biomining of the Mandur garbage landfill and reclaiming the land.

BENGALURU ▸ PAGE 3

Complaints about poor quality uniform cloth

BENGALURU

Amidst allegations of widespread corruption in the functioning of the Department of Primary and Secondary Education, students and parents have now complained that the cloths for school uniforms are of a poor quality.

BENGALURU ▸ PAGE 4

City's street lights to turn smart and intelligent

BENGALURU

The city's civic body is all set to replace the existing street lights with 'smart intelligent lights' to curb energy wastage. It will also set up a Centralized Control & Monitoring System from where the street lights can be managed.

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EDUCATIONPLUS ▸ PAGE 5

NSCN(I-M) to resume peace talks with Centre

Group meets with Core Committee on Naga Political Issue

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

The extremist National Socialist Council of Nagalim or the Isak-Muivah faction of the NSCN has agreed to resume peace talks with the Centre based on the Framework Agreement signed on August 3, 2015.

The decision follows a meeting between the 11 representatives of the NSCN(I-M) and the 22-member Core Committee on Naga Political Issue comprising MPs and MLAs of Nagaland at Chumoukedima near the State's commercial hub, Dimapur, on Saturday.

"The NSCN has agreed to resume talks on the condition that they are based on the Framework Agreement and the formulation papers submitted to R.N. Ravi and A.K. Mishra," T.R. Zeliang, the co-convener of the core committee said.

Mr. Mishra, a former Special Director of the Intelligence Bureau, succeeded Mr. Ravi as the Centre's interlocutor for the Naga peace process in September 2021. The latter is now the Governor of Tamil Nadu.

Mr. Zeliang said an NSCN (I-M) delegation would leave for New Delhi on September 19 to discuss some unresolved matters with Central government officials.

> The NSCN has agreed to resume talks on the condition that they are based on the Framework Agreement submitted to R.N. Ravi and A.K. Mishra
>
> Our role is to act as facilitators of the peace process and convey the feeling of the Nagas and the Centre to each other. We are not at all involved with the negotiation
>
> T.R. ZELIANG
> Co-convener of Core Committee

There are reports that a Central team has been working on a new set of "formulation papers" for packaging a set of offers, along with the old, to facilitate the final peace deal soon.

Mr. Zeliang said the meeting was focused on conveying what Home Minister Amit Shah had told the committee at a meeting in New Delhi on September 12.

The NSCN(I-M) delegation, he said, was unhappy with Mr. Mishra for omitting some important political points that Mr. Ravi had included in his formulation papers earlier.

"Our role is to act as facilitators of the peace process and convey the feeling of the Nagas and the Centre to each other. We are not at all involved with the negotiation," Mr. Zeliang said.

He said the onus was now on the Centre and the NSCN (I-M) to sign the final agreement before the Assembly election due by February 2023. The Working Committee of the Naga National Political Groups (NNPGs) is ready to sign the final agreement any time, he added.

The NNPGs consist of at least seven groups that have traditionally been the rivals of the NSCN(I-M).

'Ball in Centre's court'

The NSCN(I-M) said the ball of the final agreement was in the Centre's court. "We have been waiting for their response," Rh Raising, member of the outfit's collective leadership, said.

Two more PCCs seek Rahul's return

Gujarat, Chhattisgarh units pass resolutions to bring him back as party president

MAHESH LANGA
SHUBHOMOY SIKDAR
AHMEDABAD/RAIPUR

The chorus for former Congress president Rahul Gandhi to take back the reins of the party grew louder on Sunday with the Pradesh Congress Committees (PCCs) of Gujarat and Chhattisgarh joining Rajasthan in unanimously passing resolutions calling for his return to the helm.

In Gujarat, the resolution was moved by State party chief Jagdish Thakor at the PCC executive meeting and all members supported it.

"In one voice, we have moved a resolution that Rahul*ji* must take over as party chief and lead the party to the next Lok Sabha election," a party leader from the election-bound State said.

On the road: Congress leader and former party president Rahul Gandhi walking with a party supporter during the Bharat Jodo Yatra in Alappuzha district of Kerala on Sunday. • PTI

Demand for rethink

Earlier, in Chhattisgarh – the only other State besides Rajasthan where the party is in power – Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel moved the resolution in Raipur on Sunday which was supported by all the delegates.

"Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan PCCs have passed these resolutions. It has been done in two States but if this proposal comes from other States too, then Rahul*ji* should rethink this matter. There is very little time left for the election [of the Congress president]. I believe that keeping in mind the feelings of the party workers, Mr. Gandhi will give his nod," Mr. Baghel said.

In response to a question on how such resolutions should be viewed in light of Mr. Gandhi repeatedly expressing reluctance to return to the post, the party's State election officer, Husain Dalwai, said it was the will of the party workers. "If he takes up the responsibility, it will be better for us and that is why such a resolution has been passed," he said.

For some like AICC's Chhattisgarh in-charge P.L. Punia, the resolutions were an occasion to reiterate their loyalty to the Gandhi family. Mr. Punia said the party could not "pick any one from the street and make them the president".

As many as 310 delegates were present at the Chhattisgarh meeting, while the Gujarat Congress did not disclose the number.

Both the PCCs also passed resolutions authorising Congress president Sonia Gandhi to reshuffle the State units as part of the exercise to overhaul the party's structure nationally.

A similar resolution was passed in Madhya Pradesh too on Saturday. However, the M.P. PCC did not pass a resolution calling for Mr. Gandhi's return at the helm.

With less than a week left for the election process to kick off, a group of young Congress leaders have started a signature campaign, appealing to the presidential candidates to "undertake a public pledge to involve party members from block committees up to the CWC and implement the Udaipur Declaration in its entirety within the first 100 days of assuming office". The initial signatories to the campaign include K. Raju, Praveen Chakravarty, Meenakshi Natarajan, Prakash Joshi, Sachin Rao, Jothimani and Harshwardhan Sapkal.

'PRE-EMINENT PLACE' ▸ PAGE 11

Taiwan trembles

Searching for life: Firefighters searching for survivors in a collapsed building after an earthquake in eastern Taiwan on Sunday. The 6.8-magnitude quake shook much of Taiwan and knocked part of a train off its tracks at a station. • AP (REPORT ON PAGE 14)

Karnataka rejects Kerala's two railway line proposals over environment concerns

The lines will have to pass through eco-sensitive zones, says Bommai

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Karnataka has rejected Kerala's proposals for two railway lines to connect both the States, citing that the lines that will have to pass through eco-sensitive zones could potentially damage the environment.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai conveyed the decision to his Kerala counterpart Pinarayi Vijayan during their meeting here on Sunday. The two proposed rail lines envisages connecting Thalassery with Mysuru and Kasaragod with Dakshina Kannada.

"The bilateral meeting had been planned before when we met in Thiruvananthapuram. We have rejected the proposal to connect Kasaragod and Dakshina Kannada as places around Sulliaa Subramanya fall in eco sensitive zones. The Railways had earlier rejected the proposal but later said the project could be taken up if both States agreed. Besides the environment issue, we feel that the line will not benefit Karnataka passengers. We cannot agree to it," Mr. Bommai told presspersons after the meeting. This proposed line will pass through Karnataka for 45 km and in Kerala for 31 km.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai felicitates Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan during a meeting in Bengaluru on Sunday. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

On the old proposal of connecting Thalassery with Mysuru, Mr. Bommai said Karnataka had rejected that proposal too. "Mr. Vijayan suggested that the proposed line could be taken up as per new alignment. We are not ready to compromise on environmental issues as the line passes through eco-sensitive Bandipur and Nagarahole National Parks that are declared Tiger and Elephant corridors," he said.

Mr. Bommai also said that Karnataka had rejected the proposal to have an underground section for the line in forest areas, as land is required for the project and would affect forest areas. "There are eco-sensitive zones and buffer zones in Bandipur and Nagarahole, Karnataka cannot allow it," he said.

Meanwhile, Karnataka has also rejected another proposal discussed by Mr. Vijayan on increasing the number of night buses plying through the forest area from two to four.

Regarding the alternative alignment for National Highway-73 being readied by National Highway Authority of India, Mr. Bommai said: "We are not sure about the proposal. We will examine it after it is submitted. We have informed Mr. Vijayan that Karnataka is not ready to take up any work in eco-sensitive zones." About a banner in Secunderabad that said, "Welcome to 40% CM," without referring to anyone, Mr. Bommai said that it was a plot to defame Karnataka. This pertained to a repeated charge by the Karnataka State Contractors' Association that 40% commission is a norm in public works.

ANOTHER REPORT ▸ PAGE 6

Net direct tax kitty crosses ₹7 lakh crore

Finance Ministry says the 23.3% rise is a clear signal of economic revival

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

India's net direct tax collections have crossed ₹7 lakh crore so far this year, 23.33% more than the corresponding period last year, signalling a post-pandemic rebound in the economy, the Finance Ministry said on Sunday.

Net direct tax collections as on Saturday stood at ₹7,00,669 crore, compared with ₹5,68,147 crore as of September 17, 2021, with corporate taxes constituting little over a half of the kitty at ₹3,68,484 crore. The personal income tax and the securities transaction tax (STT) have yielded ₹3.3 lakh crore.

"Direct tax collections continue to grow at a robust pace, a clear indicator of the revival of economic activity post-pandemic, as also the result of the stable policies of the government, focusing on simplification and streamlining of processes and plugging of tax leakage through effective use of technology," the Ministry said in a statement. Gross direct tax revenues were 30.2% higher than in the corresponding period of 2021-22, at ₹8,36,225 crore. This included corporation tax of ₹4.36 lakh crore and personal income tax, including STT, of ₹3,98,440 crore. The tax deducted at source accounted for over ₹4.34 lakh crore of the gross tax kitty, while self-assessment tax was ₹77,164 crore.

Advance tax collections stood at ₹2,95,308 crore, 17% higher than the corresponding period of 2021-22, with corporate tax contributing a little over ₹2.29 lakh crore and personal income tax bringing in the rest of the ₹66,176 crore.

The Ministry said there had been a "remarkable increase in the speed of processing of income tax returns filed during the current financial year" with almost 93% of the duly verified ITRs having been processed till September 17.

"This has resulted in faster issue of refunds with almost a 468% increase in the number of refunds issued in the current financial year," the statement said. Refunds amounting to ₹1,35,556 crore have been issued till September 17, as against refunds of ₹74,140 crore issued during the corresponding period in 2021-22, showing a growth of over 83%.

Revenue rises

The net direct tax revenue increased by about 23% in the ongoing fiscal year, till September 17, compared with the collections during the corresponding period last year

Tax type	FY23*	FY22*	% change
Net direct tax	7,00,669	5,68,147	23%
Gross direct tax (before adjusting for refunds)	8,36,225	6,42,287	30%
Cumulative advance tax	2,95,308	2,52,077	17%

* collections in ₹ crore as on September 17 for both years

Lumpy skin disease virus different from 2019 version

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

The lumpy skin disease (LSD) virus that has killed at least 50,000 cattle in India this year may be structurally different from the version of the virus prevalent in India in 2019, raising questions on whether the new vaccine being developed for safeguarding cattle may be adequately protective.

Scientists at the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology and the State Disease Diagnostic Centre, Jaipur, analysed five animals with symptoms of the disease and compared genomes of the virus extracted from them. Six genomes (there were multiple genomes from a single animal) showed that it had "little similarity to global genomes" when compared with genetic sequences from earlier outbreaks of the disease. The analysis of the genomes revealed 177 unique variants, none of which were found in four genome sequences from India belonging to the 2019 outbreak of the disease deposited in GenBank, a popular database.

"Analysis of the viral sequences suggests the genomes from the 2022 outbreak harbour a large number of genetic variations compared to the reference genome and form a distinct lineage," the authors say.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 10

THE HINDU

Text & Context

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NEWS IN NUMBERS

Tax collection grows

30 In percentage, the growth in gross direct tax collections till September 17 of the current fiscal year on higher advance tax mop-up, buoyed by the economic revival post-pandemic, according to the Finance Ministry. Gross collection of direct taxes for 2022-23 stands at ₹8,36,225 crore compared to ₹6,42,287 crore in the year-ago period, the Ministry informed in a statement. This includes revenue from corporate income tax of ₹4.36 lakh crore and Personal Income Tax (PIT) of ₹3.98 lakh crore. PTI

FPI investments

12,000 In ₹ crore, the amount pumped by foreign investors into the Indian equity market in September in the hopes that global central banks, particularly the U.S. Fed, may go slow on rate hikes as inflation starts to cool off. This comes following a net investment of ₹51,200 crore in August and nearly ₹5,000 crore in July, the data showed. Between October 2021 and June 2022, they sold a massive ₹2.46 lakh crore in the Indian equity market. PTI

Highway accidents

60 The number of lives lost in road accidents on the 100-km stretch of the Mumbai-Ahmedabad highway between Ghodbunder in Thane and Dapchari in Palghar district in 2022, according to police officials. News of former Tata Sons chairman Cyrus Mistry dying in a car accident on Maharashtra's Palghar district's Mumbai-Ahmedabad highway drew focus to road accidents in the country. Officials added that over 260 accidents were witnessed on the 100-km stretch, leaving 192 persons injured this year. PTI

Discom payment dues

713 In ₹ crore, the outstanding dues of power distribution companies towards power producers, declined sharply from ₹5,085.30 crore as of August 17 following a strict action against defaulter utilities. The defaulter utilities were barred from trading at power exchanges under the Electricity (Late Payment Surcharge and related matters), Rules 2022.The latest update regarding late payment surcharge dues showed that three discoms in Karnataka and one in J&K had outstanding dues. PTI

PLI scheme applicants

75 The number of applications received by the Union government from domestic players under the PLI (Production-Linked Incentive) scheme for speciality steel, according to an official. Applicants include all major steel players like Tata Steel, JSW Steel, JSPL, AMNS India and SAIL, a senior Steel Ministry official said. However, no proposal has been received from any foreign entity. The Union Cabinet in July last year approved a ₹6,322 crore PLI scheme to boost the production of speciality steel in India. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

EXPLAINER

The ban on the export of broken rice

How is the ethanol blending programme connected to the rice export ban? How have rice-importing countries reacted?

THE GIST

- On September 9, the Centre instituted a ban on the export of broken rice. Additionally, it mandated an export duty of 20% on rice in husk (paddy or rough), husked (brown rice) and semi-milled or wholly-milled rice.
- In the ongoing Ethanol Season Year, because of supply constraints there has been an uptick in the procurement of rice from the FCI. The export ban is a means to catch-up with this supply and additionally, unburden the FCI from provisioning to distillers.
- With trade disrupted in the Black Sea region, prices of rice are surging because traders are betting it will be an alternative for wheat which is becoming prohibitively expensive. India accounted for 41% of the total rice exports in the world in 2021.

SAPTAPARNO GHOSH

The story so far: On September 9, the Centre instituted a ban on the export of broken rice. Additionally, it mandated an export duty of 20% on rice in husk (paddy or rough), husked (brown rice) and semi-milled or wholly-milled rice. The measures do not affect export of basmati or parboiled rice. The Secretary at the Department of Food and Public Distribution Sudhanshu Pandey stated that the measures would ensure adequate availability of broken rice for consumption by the domestic poultry industry and for other animal feedstock. Additionally, it would sustain production of ethanol that would further assist the successful implementation of the Union government's Ethanol Blending Programme (EBP). However, the measures may affect countries dependent on Indian food exports in the face of a lost 'breadbasket' in Ukraine owing to the Russian conflict.

What does it have to do with inflation?

The lower the supply of a commodity, the higher would be the price of a product, which results in inflationary pressures. The adequacy of rice stocks in the country would ensure that markets do not experience excess demand and thus, trigger an abrupt price rise. For seven consecutive months, inflation has been above the Reserve Bank of India's 6% tolerability threshold. The Consumer Price Index (CPI), or retail-based inflation, stood at 7% in August this year with rural and urban inflation scaling 7.15% and 6.72% respectively. This was furthered by an uptick of 7.62% in food prices during the same period.

The COVID-19 pandemic also had an impact on India's previously held surplus. As a reaction to the distresses caused by the pandemic to the vulnerable sections the Union Cabinet had introduced a food security program, called the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PM-GKAY) in March 2020. The scheme provisions an additional 5kg ration per person each month in addition to their normal quota of foodgrains under the National Food Security Act. In March, the scheme was extended for another six months until September 2022.

The *Hindu Businessline* had reported this week that foodgrain stocks (including rice, wheat and unmilled paddy) in the Food Corporation of India (FCI)'s central pool had dropped 33.5% on a year-over-year basis to 60.11 million tonnes as of September 1 – prompting doubts on the continuation of the scheme. Research analysts at Nomura observe that on the whole, though rice stocks should remain above buffer levels, the current export restrictions may not necessarily improve the demand-supply situation materially, implying, that there remains an upside risk to the price of rice. "As such, we believe there is a risk that further curbs on rice exports could be imposed, particularly in categories still exempted," it states.

What happened to rice production?

The major rice cultivation season in India is the Kharif season, that entails sowing the crop during June-July and harvesting them in November-December.

In the 2018-19 Ethanol Supply Year, the government had allowed the FCI to sell surplus rice to ethanol plants for fuel production.

It is imperative to note that rice is a water-intensive crop which also requires a hot and humid climate. Thus, it is best suited to regions which have high humidity, prolonged sunshine and an assured supply of water. It is for this reason that the eastern and southern regions of the country, with sustainable humidity and suitable mean temperatures are deemed favourable for the crop. While the two regions are able to grow paddy crops throughout the year, higher rainfall and temperature prompt the northern regions to grow only one crop of rice from May to November. Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Punjab, Haryana, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are among the rice producing States in India.

A perusal of Indian Meteorological Dept's data, between June 1 and September 14 illustrate that Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Punjab and Bihar have experienced deficient rainfall. The latter refers to rainfall being 20-59% below normal in a particular region. Although West Bengal, the country's largest producer, has overall experienced a normal rainfall, its major productivity areas such as Nadia, Burdwan and Birbhum have had deficient rainfall. This indicates a potentially lower produce this year.

What are the concerns on ethanol blending?

Ethanol is an agro-based product, mainly produced from molasses, which is a by-product of the sugar industry. The EBP endeavours to blend ethanol with vehicular fuels as a means to combat the use of fossil fuels and in turn, rising pollution. As per the government, sugar-based feed stocks alone would not be able to meet its stipulated target of 20% ethanol blending by 2025.

In the 2018-19 Ethanol Supply Year (ESY), the government had allowed the FCI to sell surplus rice to ethanol plants for fuel production. The idea was to have in place an insurance scheme and an emergency provision for distillers.

However, in the ongoing ESY, because of supply constraints there has been an uptick in the procurement of rice from the FCI. The total ethanol produced from rice lifted from the FCI stood at 26.64 crore litres whereas that from damaged food grains outside the FCI purview stood at 16.36 crore litres. This means that the production accruing from FCI rice has increased 10-fold from the 2.2 crore litres used in a full ESY. At the same time, production from damaged foodgrains stands at half.

Thus, the export ban would endeavour to catch-up with this supply and additionally, unburden the FCI from provisioning to distillers.

What are the likely after-effects of the ban?

Geopolitical tensions between Russia and Ukraine have unsettled global food supply chains. With trade disrupted in the Black Sea region, *Bloomberg* reported in March that prices of rice are surging because traders are betting it will be an alternative for wheat which is becoming prohibitively expensive.

India accounted for 41% of the total rice exports in the world in 2021, larger than the next four exporters (Thailand, Vietnam, Pakistan and United States) combined.

As for broken rice, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) states that

• SANDEEP SAXENA

India accounted for more than half of the commodity's global exports in the first half of 2022. As per government figures, between April and August this year, broken rice's share in the overall rice export mix (of India) was 22.78% compared to 18.89% in FY 2021.

In descending order, China, Senegal, Vietnam, Djibouti and Indonesia are the biggest importers of India's broken rice.

Senior Executive Director at the All-India Rice Exporters Association Vinod Kumaar Kaul told *The Hindu*, "Thailand, Vietnam and Pakistan would gain should we happen to lose this market. Once lost, regaining the market would be a task."

Mr. Kaul pegs the losses to the exporters from the ban to be around ₹5,600 crore for the full year.

EXPLAINER

The process of inclusion/exclusion from the Scheduled Tribes list

What are the new tribal groups on the list? How are they selected? What is the process?

ABHINAY LAKSHMAN

The story so far: On September 14, the Union Cabinet approved a proposal to add several tribes to the list of Scheduled Tribes (ST) in States such as Himachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Chhattisgarh and Uttar Pradesh, so that they can avail of benefits meant for STs, including reservation. The announcement by Minister of Tribal Affairs Arjun Munda came even as six tribal communities of Assam – Adivasi, Chutia, Koch-Rajbongshi, Matak, Moran and Tai-Ahom – threatened to launch protests over an "inordinate delay" in their inclusion in the ST list.

Which communities have been added to the ST list?

The communities approved for inclusion in the ST list are the Hatti tribe in the Trans-Giri area of Sirmour district in Himachal Pradesh, the hill tribes of Narikoravan and Kurivikkaran of Tamil Nadu, the Binjhia community in Chhattisgarh and the Gond community in certain districts of Uttar Pradesh. The Cabinet has approved the addition of several alternative names for already existing Scheduled Tribes in Chhattisgarh and Karnataka so that the difference in spellings and pronunciations do not result in members of these communities being left out of the benefits meant for them.

Significantly, even as the Union Cabinet has decided to include these communities under the ST list, this is not the first time they have been categorised for benefits of reservation. Most of these communities had been either included in the list of Scheduled Castes (SC) or Most Backward Classes till now.

How is a community added or removed from SC, ST lists?

The process begins at the level of a State or Union Territory, with the concerned government or administration seeking the addition or exclusion of a particular community from the SC or ST list. The final decision rests with the President's office issuing a notification specifying the changes under powers vested in it from Articles 341 and 342. The inclusion or exclusion of any community in the Scheduled Tribes or Scheduled Castes list come into effect only after the President assents to a Bill that amends the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950 and the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950, as is appropriate, after it is passed by both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

A State government may choose to recommend certain communities for addition or subtraction from the list of SCs/STs based on its discretion. This recommendation may come from studies it commissions like in the case of classifying the Hatti community in Himachal Pradesh. Following this, the proposal to include or remove any community from the Scheduled List is sent to the Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs from the concerned State government. After this, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, through its own deliberations, examines the proposal, and sends it to the Registrar General of India (RGI). Once approved by the RGI, the proposal is sent to the National Commission for Scheduled Castes or National Commission for Scheduled Tribes, following which the proposal is sent back to the Union government, which after inter-ministerial deliberations, introduces it in the Cabinet for final approval.

As for the communities approved for addition to the list by the Cabinet earlier last week, a Bill was introduced in Parliament by the Tribal Affairs Minister this year, specifying the exclusion of the Gond community from the SC list in four districts of Uttar Pradesh and moving them to the ST list. Similarly, another Bill was also introduced by Mr. Munda, to shift certain communities in Jharkhand from the SC list to the ST list and add synonyms and variations in spellings for certain other communities in the ST list.

What is the criteria to begin the process?

To establish whether a community is a Scheduled Tribe, the government looks at several criteria, including its ethnological traits, traditional characteristics, distinctive culture, geographical isolation and backwardness. However, in March this year the Supreme Court said it wanted to fix fool-proof parameters to determine if a person belongs to a Scheduled Tribe and is entitled to the benefits due to the community. It said the judiciary was no longer sure about an "affinity test" used to sift through distinct traits to link a person to a tribe. There is the likelihood, it said, that contact with other cultures, migration and modernisation would have erased the traditional characteristics of a tribe. An apex court Bench of Justices Hemant Gupta and V. Ramasubramanian referred the question of fixing the parameters to a larger Bench, pointing out that the issue was a "matter of importance" when it came to issuing caste certificates.

How many Scheduled Tribes are there officially?

According to the Scheduled Tribes in India as revealed in Census 2011, there are said to be 705 ethnic groups listed as Scheduled Tribes under Article 342. Over 10 crore Indians are notified as STs, of which 1.04 crore live in urban areas. The STs constitute 8.6% of the population and 11.3% of the rural population.

THE GIST

- On September 14, the Union Cabinet approved a proposal to add several tribes to the list of Scheduled Tribes in States such as Himachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Chhattisgarh and Uttar Pradesh.
- The inclusion of any community in the ST/SC list come into effect only after the President assents to a Bill that amends the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950 and the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950, as is appropriate, after it is passed by both houses.
- To establish whether a community is a Scheduled Tribe, the government looks at several criteria, including its ethnological traits, traditional characteristics, distinctive culture etc

ODR is a great example of social engineering: Nilekani

He was speaking at the convocation of National Law School of India University

Dignitaries and students at the convocation of NLSIU in Bengaluru on Sunday.. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

More than 16 million disputes have been onboarded in Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) systems in the country two years after NITI Ayog's initiative to advance ODRs said Nandan Nilekani, Chairman and Co-founder Infosys on Sunday.

He was addressing the graduating students at the 30th annual convocation of National Law School of India University (NLSIU) and spoke about the importance of social engineering and better informal systems where many legal issues in the country can be resolved.

Mr. Nilekani recalled how two years ago, many stakeholders including the businesses, ODR providers, government and legal service authorities, made a pledge and as a result of which, the advancement can be seen today.

ODR refers to the resolution of disputes through technology and Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) processes. He added that more than 100 companies and 40 government departments now use ODR.

He also cited a recent incident where a non-profit organisation called Ajeevika Bureau employed ODR to resolve over 3,000 wage disputes from during the pandemic times between migrant labourers and their contractors.

It is necessary to reinvent structures and systems not just inside the government but also in industry and civil society, he said.

He pointed out how lack of effective systems and structures affects the poor and marginalised while also widening the opportunity gap.

"We need this form of social engineering – this new leadership with the agency at its heart - to advance our law and justice systems urgently", Mr. Nilekani said while pointing out the need to design the new future systems of business, government and society to minimise friction, provide scope for diversity and prevent issues from arising.

Medal presentation

After two virtual convocations in 2020 and 2021, NLSIU celebrated this year's ceremony at Dr. Babu Rajendra Prasad International Convention Centre in GKVK campus. Chief Justice of India and Chancellor of NLSIU, Uday Umesh Lalit presented the degrees to the graduating students as well as gold medal awardees.

A total of 829 students, which included six from Ph.D programme, one from Master of Philosophy, 53 from Master of Public Policy, 40 from Master of Laws, 76 from Bachelor of Arts and Laws (Honours) and 653 students from Online and Hybrid Education programmes graduated this year.

Chief Justices of various High Courts, judges of Supreme Court and High Courts, Chairman, Bar Council of India, Vice Chancellor of NLSIU, Sudhir Krishnaswamy were present during the convocation. Mr. Krishnaswamy who presented the annual report of NLSIU said the University was engaged in building university clusters according the National Education Policy - 2020.

"We are actively engaged in building such a university cluster with the Indian Institute of Science and the Indian Institute of Management in Bangalore. Individually, these institutions are already India's best academic institutions in their respective fields. Together, we will be in a position to expand our academic programmes and research projects in new collaborative directions. We anticipate exponential rewards arising out of these collaborations, and early results should be visible this Academic Year," he said.

NLSIU medal winners secure jobs at London law firms

They share their experiences and challenges at the institution

JAHNAVI T. R.
BENGALURU

The National Law School of India University (NLSIU) awarded gold medals to 48 graduates during the convocation across different programmes. Amongst them, three students from BA LLB (Honours) programme – Saurabh Gupta, Vrishank Singhania and Pallavi Khatri – received eight, seven and six gold medals respectively, the highest this year. Speaking to *The Hindu* after receiving their medals, the trio said that they were all going to London to work in law firms soon. They also shared their experiences at NLSIU, the challenges and the impact of COVID-19 on their college life.

Mr. Saurabh won the most number of medals, including the Basant Kumar Birla Medal for the II Rank Student. Hailing from Chandigarh, he described his experience at the top law school as "life changing". "The journey has been full of ups and downs. It helped me grow as a person and helped me explore what I wanted to do in the future," he said. After a Masters programme in University of Oxford and a two-year job at a law firm in London, he plans to practise law at the High Court in Chandigarh.

Good support system

The medal winners said that as much as the experience at NLSIU was enjoyable and highly academically beneficial, they underwent a lot of stress. "As we are a small, competitive college, it is quite stressful and is a high-pressure environment. It is a constant challenge as there are a lot of expectations, not just academically, but to perform in other areas as well. However, you learn to cope with it overtime and it gets better with a good support system", said Mr. Vrishank from Hyderabad who was awarded the Indira Khaitan Medal for University First Rank and Sarala Birla Medal for the overall topper along with the Best Outgoing student medal.

He added that while he missed social interactions during the pandemic, academically, the virtual classes worked out well. "As there are a lot of activities like moot courts, debates and committees involved in law school, the COVID-19 period gave me the time to slow down and introspect and focus.," he said. He is currently working with a Supreme Court Lawyer in Delhi and will work in London for two years after that. Upon his return to the country, he plans to have a career combination of litigation and academia in his future.

Ms. Pallavi from Chandigarh won the Kumari Devi Menon Memorial Medal for All-round Best Graduating Girl Student and Ms. Anuradha N. Memorial Medal for Best Outgoing Female Student along with four others. When asked about the challenges she faced as a woman in the University, she said "It was pretty similar to what women in face in the other areas of life. While NLSIU is a really open, progressive, liberal community, there are a few bad apples everywhere. From one or two people, you face a little bit of sexism and instances of unsavoury comments. But otherwise, professors and everyone else are very supportive. There are also many collectives in the university which work towards reducing prejudices in the college."

She will soon be joining a magic circle firm in London where she will work as a commercial lawyer in the corporate department. She wants to have a business of her own in the future and is looking to build a safety net and get some exposure before that.

Medallist runs legal aid trust

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Ashwini O., who graduated from the LLM programme, secured the M/s. Sitaram Jindal Foundation Gold Medal for the Best Outgoing LL.M. Student hailing from marginalised background. In 2013, she graduated from the same law school in LLB and worked in the corporate sector thereafter. A little while after that, she realised that her true interest lay in litigation and started her career in the field with Ravivarma Kumar, former Advocate General of the State. She practiced before the High Court of Karnataka. "I really enjoyed picking up causes, filing PILs and litigating. Then I felt the need to get back to academics and came back here", she said.

Ms. Ashwini also runs her own legal aid trust – Dhwani Legal Trust where child rights and women's rights are the main focus of work.

READ MORE IN-DEPTH CONTENT AT THE HINDU'S WEBSITE
www.thehindu.com

Text & Context

A weekday feature on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) which includes explainers, special articles and a quiz. In the latest issue (September 19, Monday), the following explainers are available:

- **Explained** | The ban on the export of broken rice bit.ly/brokenriceexp

Online exclusives

- **Talking Politics** Can the Bharat Jodo Yatra save Congress? bit.ly/bharatyatra
- **Watch** | Samarkand SCO: Can India straddle West and East? bit.ly/suhasco
- **Explained** | Lebanon's economic meltdown and why people are robbing banks for their own money bit.ly/lebanoneconomy
- *You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access these articles. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access the article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.*

Award for K.N. Panikkar

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Communist Party of India (Marxist) politbureau member M.A. Baby will present the 2022 Dr. N. M. Mohammedali Endowment Award to historian K.N. Panikkar in Bengaluru on Monday. The award is instituted by the Kerala Gazetted Officers' Association in memory of N.M. Mohammedali, former president and general secretary.

Police stations to have libraries

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

In a big step towards community outreach by the city police, southeast division police have taken up an initiative to set up a library in every police station in the division. The first such library was opened for public use by renowned filmmaker Girish Kasaravalli at Hulimavu police station on Sunday.

Noted film director Girish Kasaravalli inaugurating the library at Hulimavu police station in Bengaluru. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"We are planning to set up libraries and reading kiosks at every police station and at the DCP, ACP office premises," said C. K. Baba, DCP (South East), spearheading the programme.

"I always carry a book to read while travelling or during breaks from office work. This led to the idea of a library and a reading kiosk at every police station, so that people who walk into the station can read something while waiting to be attended to. This will also help build community outreach and make police stations more friendly," he said.

Another senior officer said libraries at police stations will help the police also. "Reading books will be a good way to de-stress amidst hectic work. It will also help our personnel pick up a reading habit, give them exposure or even improve their vocabulary," the officer said. "Increasingly, people are losing the habit of reading a book. They are drowned in their phones. In this bargain if someone picks up a habit of reading or finds an interesting book, we would be very happy," Mr. Baba said.

The library initiative is also part of the "Hello Neighbour" campaign, that aims to help the beat police build a rapport with the residents, launched a few years ago. So the process of building these libraries at the police stations is also an important part of this outreach.

The library at Hulimavu police station, opened on Sunday, has a collection of 840 books that the police have collected from the residents of the area. Many residents including alumni of several educational institutions in the area have donated their books for the library. Other libraries will also be built through the support of local residents and institutions in their respective areas, helping the police reach out to the community.

Three held for running fake transport company

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The southeast cybercrime police on Saturday arrested three persons who were running a fake movers and packers company under a reputed brand name and cheating people.

The accused Bramhadeva Yadav, 25, Mukesh Kumar Yadav, 20, and Vijay Kumar Yadav, 22, from Bihar put up a fake website with a contact number offering lowest price to lure gullible people.

The accused cheated many people, including 39-year-old private firm employee, Jejith Shirnali, from Tata Nagar. Mr. Shirnali searched online to transport his bike to Sagar and contacted the accused. The accused offered to transport his bike for ₹1,000. They came home packed the bike and took it away after Mr. Shirnali transferred the money online on September 7.

The cheating came to light when Mr. Shirnali called them after the bike was not delivered even after the deadline. The accused demanded him to transfer ₹8,000 more to get his bike. Suspecting something fishy, Mr. Shirnali approached the police and filed a case.

Woman held on theft charge

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Vidyaranyapura police have arrested a 41-year-old homemaker for stealing gold valuables from her friend's house to recover from the financial losses she had suffered.

The accused, Geetha P.G., was arrested based on a complaint filed by Lakshmi, who was shocked to see her valuables kept in the locker of her wardrobe has been emptied on August 18.

She suspected Geetha who stayed in her house the previous day to check the designs of the valuables and even locked the room for few minutes on the pretext of changing and left in a hurry.

The police picked up Geetha for questioning and she confessed to the crime.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Client Sri. **T.K. DRUVA CHANDRA** S/o late Krishnaiah Setty, aged about 69 Years, Presently R/at No. 17/2, "Srivari Nilayam", 6th Main, 8th Cross, N.R.Colony, Bengaluru-560019, has entered into a registered Agreement of Sale **dated 26-12-2015** vide **Doc. No. KDR-1-05363-2015-16** with **M/s. Sri Ventures Land Developers India Ltd**, a company registered under the Companies Act 1956 presently having office at No. 82/1, 1st Floor, Dr. Rajkumar Road, Prakashnagar, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru-10, Rep. by its Director, to purchase the sites having different sizes mentioned in Schedule 'B' properties which are part and parcel of Schedule 'A' property mentioned below. My client's Vendor company have entered into a registered Joint Development Agreement **dated 20-05-2013** vide Doc. No. KDR-1-05513-2014-15 and supplementary agreement dated 05-11-2015 vide Doc. No. KDR-4-00293-2015-16 with the landlords of the schedule 'A' property to form residential layout therein and got converted the land vide conversion order dated 11-08-2014 vide No. A2.ALN/CR/252, 253, 254, 255/2013-14 from the Deputy Commissioner of Chikkamagalur District. Thereafter got approved the layout plan from the Town Planning Authority, Bengaluru on 05-12-2014 vide order No. [illegible]/01/2014-15. My client has purchased the schedule 'B' properties from the Vendor Company herein out of its share allotted by virtue of the registered Joint Development Agreement dated 20-05-2013 and 05-11-2015. Further my client has paid substantial part sale consideration amount to aforesaid Vendor Company out of total sale consideration mentioned in the agreement of sale dated 20-05-2013, same is acknowledged and confirmed by them. Further the Vendor Company have received further part sale consideration amount on 15-06-2020 on oral contract and promised that they will execute the sale deed in favour of my client in respect of Schedule 'B' Property on receipt of balance sale consideration, hence the said registered agreement of sale and oral contract dated 15/06/2020 still subsists and in force for all practical purpose. To avoid third part interest over the schedule 'B' property as precautionary measure issued this public notice.

Any Person/Society/Firm or any other body, having any manner of right, title, interest, claim on the below mentioned schedule 'B' property or any part thereof by way of any agreement, contract, lease, trust, inheritance, gift, possession, lien, charge, mortgage, exchange or by any such deed/instrument of transfer, easement or otherwise, may submit their objection(s), claim(s) in writing with us at the under mentioned address through Registered Post acknowledgment due along with the supporting documentary proof, within 15 (Fifteen) days from the date of this publication. Any objections received thereafter will not be binding on my client and will proceed to complete the sale transaction. Further suppressing existing contract if my client vendor company or its Director done any transaction in this respect same will be void and invalid transaction such transaction is not binding on my client in any manner.

SCHEDULE 'A' PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the site formed in the layout which was converted by the Deputy Commissioner, Chikmagalore on 11-08-2014 in proceedings No. A2:ALN:CR:252, 253, 254, 255, 2013-14 and jurisdictional Bangalore Town Planning Authority had approved the layout plan vide order No. [illegible]/01/2014-15 dated 05-12-2014 for the following Sy No's

a) Sy.No.6/1, measuring 12 guntas. b) Sy.No.7/4, measuring 17 guntas. c) Sy.No.10/3, measuring 1 Acre. d) Sy.No.10/2, measuring 1 Acre 9 Guntas. e) Sy.No.11, measuring 8 Acres 27 Guntas. f) Sy.No.39, measuring 1 Acre 1 Guntas. g) Sy.No.40/2, measuring 1 Acre 39 guntas. h) Sy.No.41/1, 3 Acres 9 Guntas. i) Sy.No.41, measuring 5 Acres. j) Sy.No.12/2, measuring 6 Acres. k) Sy.No.12/1, measuring 6 acres 13 guntas.

The property in total measuring 35 acres 07 guntas having common boundary situated at V.L. Nagar, (Tangli village), Kasaba Hobli, Kadur and bounded on:

East by : Private property with Coconut Garden, **West by** : Marabovi B.H. Road,
North by : Veda River Channel, **South by** : Marvanji village Road.

SCHEDULE 'B' PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of Residential Sites bearing No. which is morefully described and attached as ANNEXURE 1 and total measuring 1200 Sq. Ft. vide conversion order dated 11-08-2014 vide order dated 22-01-2014 in No. A2: ALN:CR:252, 253, 254, 255, 2013-14 by Deputy Commissioner, Chikkamagalur situated at V.L. Nagar, (Tangli village) Kasaba Hobli, Kadur, which has been approved by Bangalore Town Planning Authority vide resolution No. [illegible]/01/2014-15 dated 05-12-2014, possession is not given.

ANNEXURE 1

Sl. No.	Site No.	Sq. Mt/Ft	Sy. No.	East	West	North	South
1.	315	108 Mt	12	Sn.300	Road	Sn.316	Sn.314

M. VEERABHADRAIAH, Advocate
10th Floor, Tower Block, Unity Building, Mission Road, Bengaluru -27.
Mob: 94483 88949. E-mail: ijoormgm@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Client **Sri. A. SATHISH** S/o A.S. Guptha, aged about 70 Years, Presently R/at No. 7/B, 4th Main Road, Nehru Road, Girinagar, Bengaluru 560085, has entered into a registered Agreement of Sale **dated 26-12-2015** vide **Doc. No. KDR-1-05364-2015-16** with **M/s. Sri Ventures Land Developers India Ltd**, a company registered under the Companies Act 1956 presently having office at No. 82/1, 1st Floor, Dr. Rajkumar Road, Prakashnagar, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru-10, Rep. by its Director, to purchase the sites having different sizes mentioned in Schedule 'B' properties which are part and parcel of Schedule 'A' property mentioned below. My client's Vendor company have entered into a registered Joint Development Agreement dated 20-05-2013 vide Doc. No. KDR-1-05513-2014-15 and supplementary agreement dated 05-11-2015 vide Doc. No. KDR-4-00293-2015-16 with the landlords of the schedule 'A' property to form a residential layout therein and got converted the land vide conversion order dated 11-08-2014 vide No. A2.ALN/CR/252, 253, 254, 255/2013-14 from the Deputy Commissioner of Chikkamagalur District. Thereafter got approved the layout plan from the Town Planning Authority, Bengaluru on 05-12-2014 vide order No. [illegible]/01/2014-15. My client has purchased the schedule 'B' properties from the Vendor Company herein out of its share allotted by virtue of the registered Joint Development Agreement dated 20-05-2013 and 05-11-2015. Further my client has paid substantial part sale consideration amount to aforesaid Vendor Company out of total sale consideration mentioned in the agreement of sale dated 20-05-2013, same is acknowledged and confirmed by them. Further the Vendor Company on 15-06-2020 on oral contract in continuation earlier contract promised to execute the sale deed in my client favour, on receipt of balance sale consideration, hence said registered agreement of sale and oral contract still subsists and in force for all practical purpose, therefore to avoid the third party interest over the schedule 'B' property as a precautionary measure issued this public notice.

Any Person/Society/Firm or any other body, having any manner of right, title, interest, claim on the below mentioned schedule 'B' property or any part thereof by way of any agreement, contract, lease, trust, inheritance, gift, possession, lien, charge, mortgage, exchange or by any such deed/instrument of transfer, easement or otherwise, may submit their objection(s), claim(s) in writing with us at the under mentioned address through Registered Post acknowledgement due along with the supporting documentary proof, within 15 (Fifteen) days from the date of this publication. Any objections received thereafter will not be binding on my client and will proceed to complete the sale transaction. Further in case above named my client vendor company or its director done any manner or any type of transaction in pursuant to the aforesaid registered agreement of sale dated 26/12/2015 and oral contract dated 15/06/2020 on suppressing the same with any third party same will not be binding on my client in manner.

SCHEDULE 'A' PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the site formed in the layout which was converted by the Deputy Commissioner, Chikmagalore on 11-08-2014 in proceedings No. A2:ALN:CR:252, 253, 254, 255, 2013-14 and jurisdictional Bangalore Town Planning Authority had approved the layout plan vide order No. [illegible]/01/2014-15 dated 05-12-2014 for the following Sy No's

a) Sy.No.6/1, measuring 12 guntas. b) Sy.No.7/4, measuring 17 guntas. c) Sy.No.10/3, measuring 1 Acre. d) Sy.No.10/2, measuring 1 Acre 9 Guntas. e) Sy.No.11, measuring 8 Acres 27 Guntas. f) Sy.No.39, measuring 1 Acre 1 Guntas. g) Sy.No.40/2, measuring 1 Acre 39 guntas. h) Sy.No.41/1, 3 Acres 9 Guntas. i) Sy.No.41, measuring 5 Acres. J) Sy.No.12/2, measuring 6 Acres. k) Sy.No.12/1, measuring 6 acres 13 guntas.

The property in total measuring 35 acres 07 guntas having common boundary situated at V.L. Nagar, (Tangli village), Kasaba Hobli, Kadur and bounded on:

East by : Private property with Coconut Garden, **West by** : Marabovi B.H. Road,
North by: Veda River Channel, **South by** : Marvanji village Road.

SCHEDULE 'B' PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of Residential Sites bearing No. which is morefully described and attached as ANNEXURE 1 and total measuring 12,616 Sq. Ft, vide conversion order dated 11-08-2014 vide order dated 22-01-2014 in No. A2: ALN:CR:252, 253, 254, 255, 2013-14 by Deputy Commissioner, Chikkamagalur situated at V.L. Nagar, (Tangli village) Kasaba Hobli, Kadur, which has been approved by Bangalore Town Planning Authority vide resolution No. [illegible]/01/2014-15 dated 05-12-2014, possession is not given.

ANNEXURE 1

Sl. No.	Site No.	Sq. Mt/Ft	Sy. No.	East	West	North	South
1.	401	108 Mt	10/2 & 11	Sn.402	Sn.400	Road	Sn.412
2.	440	135 Mt	11	Road	Sn.435	Sn.439	Sn.441
3	468	135 Mt	11	Road	Sn.463	Sn.467	Sn.469
4	502	216 Mt	12	Sn.501	Sn.503	Road	Sn.505
5	5	2647.94 Ft	6/1	Sn.6	Sn.4	Sn.14	Road
6	281	968.76 Ft	12	Sn.280	Road	Sn.282	Road
7	285	108 Mt	12	Sn.279	Road	Sn.283	Sn.281
8	298	108 Mt	12	Road	Sn.317	Sn.297	Sn.299

M. VEERABHADRAIAH, Advocate
10th Floor, Tower Block, Unity Building, Mission Road, Bengaluru -27.
Mob: 94483 88949. E-mail: ijoormgm@gmail.com

READER'S MAIL

Asphalt this road

Sir, — The Kengeri Railway Station road between National Public School and railway underpass is in a very poor condition; it is full of craters and potholes. People find it very difficult to drive when it rains and also during the night, as the street lights are not functioning. A large number of people, including rail travellers, use this stretch at all times.

I request the BBMP chief to check the road condition for himself and give directions to asphalt this stretch on a war footing, as the rains have receded now.

N. NANJUNDASWAMY,
Bengaluru

Readers can email to letters.bangalore@thehindu.co.in

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER
(Only through e-Procurement Portal)

BWSSB invites Tenders from eligible tenderers for the following works:

Office of the Chief Engineer (WWM-West), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bangalore-560009

Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number		Amount put to tender / EMD (in Rs.)	Last Date & Time for Submission of Tender	Date & Time for Opening of Tender
1	(WWM-N) H&A.V	BWSSB/EE(WWM-N)H&A/PB/ 598/2022-23. Date: 25.07.2022	1	₹ 37.80 lakhs / ₹ 75,700/-	03.10.2022 upto 5:30 pm	06.10.2022 at 12:00 Noon
2		BWSSB/EE(WWM-N)H&A/PB/ 610/2022-23. Date: 30.07.2022 (2nd Call)	2	₹ 15.69 lakhs / ₹ 39,500/-	26.09.2022 upto 5:30 pm	28.09.2022 at 12:00 Noon

Sd/- **Executive Engineer (WWM-N) H&A.V**

Office of the Chief Engineer (South), 7th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bangalore-560009

Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount put to tender / EMD (in Rs.)	Last Date & Time for Submission of Tender	Date & Time for Opening of Tender
3	South-1	BWSSB/EES-1/AE/1228/ 2022-23, Date: 14.09.2022	₹ 39,78,577/- / ₹ 79,600/-	27.09.2022 upto 4:00 pm	29.09.2022 after 3:00 pm

Sd/- **Executive Engineer (South-1)**

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurment process can be obtained by logging on to **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the signed office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/BCPL/2279/2022-23

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Losing a nation, in seven acts

A Turkish journalist's book on her country's descent into 'dictatorship' has a message for India

SATISH DESHPANDE

THE GIST

- Ece Temelkuran, a Turkish journalist and writer, in her book, *How to Lose a Country* describes how her homeland was stolen from her by what she considers the dictatorship of Recep Tayyip Erdoğan.
- Ms. Temelkuran argues that, in the last two decades, this sequence has been repeated in several other countries as well. While India finds no mention in Ms. Temelkuran's book, the resemblance to our recent history is uncanny.
- Apart from what is already mentioned in the book, there are three other uniquely Indian features which have flagged off our journey towards an authoritarian communalism. The first is by neoliberalism and the values it promotes. The second feature is about the unique role of the media and the final feature concerns the composition and positioning of the opinion-making classes, or of intellectuals in the broad sense.

In this article dated February 21, 2020 sociologist Satish Deshpande evokes Turkish journalist Ece Temelkuran's work on the descent of Turkey from a liberal, democratic republic to an authoritarian "dictatorship" to warn about the parallels with this process in other countries including India.

Are we losing our country? This is the question that Ece Temelkuran, a Turkish journalist and writer, suggests that we should be asking ourselves. In her recent book, *How to Lose a Country*, she describes how her homeland was stolen from her by what she considers the dictatorship of Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. Subtitled "The seven steps from democracy to dictatorship", the book outlines a saptapadi that Indians have become intimately familiar with over the past six years. In fact, Ms. Temelkuran's main point is that this is now a global trend.

The story begins with the creation of a movement that claims to be of and for the "real people", the authentic owners of the nation unjustly marginalised in the past by assorted conspiracies. This is followed by an assault on rationality and on language, where new meanings are thrust upon old terms and argument is replaced by aggressive slogans. The third step is a shedding of all shame and decency on the part of leaders, who then teach their followers to do so as well, all in the name of an authentic indigeneity.

After this comes the dismantling, or co-option, of all the institutions that are intended to act as checks and balances on executive power, including the judiciary, the media and the Constitution. The fifth step is the designing of new citizens, who will be pre-calibrated to the new normalcy that has been speedily established, shrugging off the weight of history. The sixth step is the reduction of all liberal and secular thinking persons to a stage of irrelevance and despair where they can only "laugh at the horror" that their country has become. The seventh and last step, of course, is when the new rulers build their own country, having crushed all possible sources of resistance to their agendas.

How the liberals react

Ms. Temelkuran emphasises that the early steps in this journey are marked by confident expectations of the liberal establishment that the disturbances are temporary, and the built-in safeguards in the system will take care of the threats. But this confidence soon gives way to helpless disbelief expressed in incredulous exclamations: "They can't do this!", "How did they get away with that!", and so on.

Ms. Temelkuran persuasively argues that, in the last two decades, this sequence has been repeated in countries as different from each other as Hungary, Brazil, the United States and Turkey (to name a few), and it is currently under way in the United Kingdom.

India finds no mention in Ms. Temelkuran's book, which is mainly addressing Anglo Americans and Europeans. But the resemblance to our recent history is uncanny. We can argue about the exact sequence, and about the relative importance or distinctiveness of this or that step, but the overall trend is striking in its similarity. Oddly enough, this book is useful precisely because it is saying nothing new, nothing that we do not already know. It is merely holding out a mirror, and there is something helpful about seeing our own experiences reflected back to us as part of a larger phenomenon. This relativising of what we are accustomed to thinking of as uniquely Indian draws attention to three features of our recent history that we may otherwise neglect.

A major section of the media and many artists, performers and other such public persons are completely identified with the power centre to the extent that they have no autonomous identity left

The first is that this journey towards an authoritarian communalism is flagged off by neoliberalism and the values it promotes. This may sound disappointingly formulaic, part of the same tired left-wing rant that most people have stopped hearing long ago. But think about it. Today, large sections of our population are convinced that some minorities ought to be legally deprived of citizenship. Could we have arrived at this point if neoliberalism had not discredited social welfare as an idea? Whatever its faults, welfarism did assume that citizens are connected to each other not only by communitarian but also by civic-national ties. Neoliberalism cut the ties that connected individuals to each other and to the state, thereby undermining our secular-social bonds. Or, to take an opposite example, think about why neoliberalism seems self-evidently opposed to things like reservation.

The second feature on which a lot has been said already is the unique role of the media in India. As the world has been repeatedly told, India has more than 400 news channels that broadcast news 24X7, far more than any other country on earth. But what is remarkable here is not so much the giant medium, but the invisible, yet incredibly effective, work that has gone into creating an audience that is primed for the message before it even arrives. The stunning swiftness and reach of the new social media are often credited with – or blamed for – the spread of bigotry. This is unfair, for most of that credit belongs to those who tutored the addressees to receive the message without the slightest trace of scepticism. This is no mean achievement in a country where, until yesterday, people prided themselves on their scepticism and wore their cynicism on their sleeves. The same suspicious lot are now eager consumers of the most crudely concocted fake news and alternative facts.

A fundamental disconnect

The final feature concerns the composition and positioning of the opinion-making classes, or of intellectuals in the broad sense. There are two related but distinct aspects to this. The first is the degree to which a left-of-centre perspective has monopolised the more formal and institutional parts of the intellectual world. This has meant that, taken as a whole, our intellectual class was never really outside the sphere of state power, but very much an insider. This is in spite of the sharp disagreements and antipathies that may have separated specific persons or groups from particular political parties or leaders. In fact, even during the Emergency, when a large number of politically active persons including some intellectuals was actually imprisoned, there was never a fundamental disconnect between the corridors of power and the opinion makers. Today, we have a clear split – a major section of the media and many bureaucrats, artists, performers and other such public persons are completely identified with the power centre to the extent that they have no autonomous identity left. On the other side of the divide is that segment of the intellectual class that is completely cut off from the power centre and has been made its target. This latter segment is struggling to come to terms with its unprecedented, total and aggressive exclusion from the power centre.

The other aspect is the relative scarcity of right-wing intellectuals. This ought to be a matter of concern for liberals and leftists because it denies those in power the benefits of moderation and refinement in the pursuit of their agendas. It also ensures that the politics of resentment plays out in extreme ways that damage institutions and cause irreparable harm to the intellectual ecosystem.

But the immediate message conveyed by *How to Lose a Country* is that it is imperative to act at once, before the *saat pheras* (seven acts) are over, and we are bound over to an authoritarian regime.

Satish Deshpande teaches Sociology at Delhi University. Views are personal

KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

Me, myself and I

A landslide victory at the polls is what all parties are aiming for!

S. UPENDRAN

A 'landslide' is usually associated with something bad. If that is the case, why is it that during elections, a big victory is called a 'landslide victory'? (N. P. Rajkumar, Chennai)

Landslides are a common occurrence during the rainy season in hilly and mountainous regions. Heavy or continuous rain usually causes mud and rocks to come sliding down the mountain/hill, and in the process, destroy everything along their path. Houses, vehicles, people, trees and animals often get buried in a landslide. While it is true that a 'landslide' is usually associated with something bad, a 'landslide victory' is seen as something good – at least from the point of view of the winner! When someone has a landslide victory in an election, he wins the contest by an overwhelming margin; he defeats his rivals soundly. What is it that a landslide does? It buries everything along its path. Someone who wins an election by a landslide, destroys everything in his path; in this case, it suggests that the candidate doesn't just beat his opponents, he buries them!

The young candidate won by a landslide.

The local MLA believes that his party will register a landslide victory.

When it is snow that comes crashing down a mountain and buries everything in its path, then it is called an 'avalanche'.

Why is the pronoun 'I' always capitalised in English? (K Nalini, Hyderabad)

Considering the fact, that the British at one point in time were ruling nearly half the world, it is quite possible that they thought no end of themselves. After all, they proudly proclaimed that theirs was an Empire on which "the sun never sets"! Perhaps, they had big egos and decided to capitalise the pronoun 'I'. I am only joking. Like all other European languages, five or six centuries ago, this pronoun in English was not capitalised. In fact, there was a time when this pronoun was pronounced and spelt like the German word for 'I' – 'ich'. With the passage of time, however, both the pronunciation and the spelling of the word gradually changed – from 'ich', it became 'ic', and then later, 'i'. Once the word was reduced to a single letter, the uncapitalised 'i' caused many problems. Readers found it strange to come across a single letter word in the middle of a sentence. Scribes and printers worried that when written separately, the single letter would attach itself to the word before it or after it – thereby, creating more problems for the reader. In order to overcome this problem, writers like Geoffrey Chaucer, the author of the *Canterbury Tales*, adopted different techniques to highlight the 'i'. He chose to make it larger than the other letters in the same line – something which all writers and printers were already doing when 'I' occurred as the first word in a sentence. Eventually, everyone chose to capitalise the word.

What is the correct pronunciation of the word 'sew'? (K. Narender, Pune)

There are quite a few people in our country who make this word rhyme with 'jew', 'zoo' and 'chew'. Native speakers of English, however, pronounce it like the word 'so'. The machine that tailors use is not a 'sue-ing' machine, but a 'so-ing' machine.

Don't buy a single vote more than necessary. I'll be damned if I'm going to pay for a landslide.

-Joseph P Kennedy

upendrankye@gmail.com

THE DAILY QUIZ

Roger Federer, one of the greatest sportspersons, hung up his racquet last week. A quiz on the tennis legend.

1 How many Grand Slam singles titles did Federer rack up?

2 Federer is the only player in tennis history, male or female, to win two different Majors five (or more) years in a row each. Name the Slams and the years.

3 After which famous encounter did Federer remark thus: "Sometimes it was weird, I look on the other side of the net, I saw him..sometimes I was like, it's just true, kind of that this is happening now, that I'm playing against him"

4 Federer with 103 titles is one of the two players to have won a century of crowns. Who holds the record with 109?

5 Federer has two Olympics medals to show for, one gold and one silver. Whom did he partner for the gold medal in 2008 and who beat him in the 2012 singles final?

6 Against whom has Federer played the most Grand Slam finals but has only a 33% success rate in them?

7 Only three players have managed to best Federer in the 11 times when he finished second-best in a Major final. If one is Rafael Nadal, name the other two.

8 Federer's last Slam appearance was at the Championships at Wimbledon in 2019 when he exited in the quarterfinals. Who beat the Swiss maestro?

Roger Federer completed a career Grand Slam by claiming the 2009 French Open. Who was his vanquished opponent seen in this photo? • GETTY IMAGES

Compiled by: V.V. Ramanan

Please send in your answers to the **dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in**

Questions and Answers to the September 16 edition of the daily quiz: 1. In 1920, the Chennai Corporation Council approved a proposal to provide tiffin to the students of a corporation school at a subsidised cost and this man was responsible for it. **Ans: Theagaraya Chetty, the then President of the Corporation**

2. The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu after whom the midday meal scheme is named after. **Ans: M. G. Ramachandran**

3. This human rights body founded by Jayaprakash Narayan which argued in the Supreme Court about the right to food. **Ans: People's Union for Civil Liberties**

4. Recently, the midday meal scheme was revamped and renamed to this. **Ans: PM Poshan Shakti Nariman Scheme**

5. The amount of calories in nutrition primary and upper primary children are supposed to get. **Ans: 450 calories for primary and 700 calories for upper primary children**

Visual: The midday meal scheme rose from this man's Buddhist thoughts. **Ans: C. Iyothee Das**

Early Birds: Nandana Baishy| Ravindra Kumar Sahu| K. N. Viswanathan

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Tender for biomining of mixed waste at Mandur landfill cleared

10 lakh tonnes of garbage will be biomined at the landfill in the village

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Nearly a decade after dumping of city's waste was stopped following a protest led by freedom fighter H.S. Doreswamy in 2014, the city administration has finally cleared a tender for biomining of the Mandur garbage landfill and reclaiming the land.

Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Ltd (BSWML) has finalised the tender to biomine an estimated 10 lakh tonnes of mixed waste at the landfill spread over 135 acres in Mandur village on the outskirts of the city near Avalahalli.

"We have finalised the tender and sent it for approval of the State government," said Parameshwaraiah, CEO, BSWML.

A file photo of Mandur garbage dumping yard near Bengaluru.

Many earlier failed attempts

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has been trying to finalise tenders for biomining the legacy waste at Mandur since 2014, but tenders have fallen through several times till date. The tender now finalised is the ninth time tenders have been called for the purpose. The tender has been finalised at ₹80 crore, sources said.

The private firm that has now bagged the contract will deploy trommels to separate the waste, into plastic, biodegradable and rejects. While the biodegradable waste will be composted and distributed to farmers, the Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) that cannot be processed will be sent to the Karnataka Power Corporation Limited's Waste to Energy plant in Bidadi, where it will be used to convert it to electricity, sources said. The 135 acre land worth over ₹176 crore will be recovered and will be used to create a park and other facilities, sources said.

Cautious welcome

The villagers of Mandur who complained of diseases, mosquitoes, contamination of ground water resources and launched an agitation and successfully stopped dumping of waste in 2014, are cautiously welcoming the biomining project.

"When it rains, there is leachate from the landfill that still leaks, the waste mountain has been dormant for eight years now. We do not have mosquito menace and other health issues now. But biomining this waste mountain will only mean stirring the pot and we fear all issues will come back to haunt us till the landfill is cleared, which may take several years. We want the government to take all precautions and ensure our quality of life is not hampered," said Gopal Rao, a resident of Mandur, who was one of those part of the protest in 2014.

Following the protests in 2014, then Chief Minister Siddaramaiah assured the villagers of Mandur that waste won't be dumped at their village from December 1, 2014, and stuck to his word. Five waste processing plants in Doddabidarakallu, Chikkanagamangala, Kannahalli, Seegehalli and Subbarayanapalya were built within six months with an aim to stop landfilling of waste altogether.

However, with lax segregation of waste at source and protests by residents around waste processing plants, the civic body reverted to landfilling waste on the city's outskirts this time in empty quarry pits in North Bengaluru.

Two arrested for trying to sell deer horns

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Officials of the CID forest cell caught a 38-year-old farmer and his associate for trying to sell 13 pieces of spotted deer horns and a trophy near Pavithra Vana on Saturday.

The accused have been identified as Vishwanath, a farmer and his associate Vinod, 24, a labourer who had accompanied Vishwanath after he was promised to get a share. Based on a tip-off about the accused trying to sell the horns, a team approached the accused posing as prospective customers and clinched a deal. After finalizing the deal, the police raided the place and arrested the accused while they were waiting in a van to deliver the horns.

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Founder-Chancellor,
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To your cherished ideals and values and
Follow humbly in your hallowed footsteps..."

V.R. Venkataachalam
Chancellor, Sri Ramachandra Institute of Higher Education and Research (DU)
and
Family Members
Trustees, Sri Ramachandra Educational and Health Trust
Faculty, Staff & Students

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KUDREMUKH

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Pellet Makers to the Nation

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CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT TO SHAREHOLDERS AT 46TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, SEPTEMBER 17, 2022

Esteemed Shareholders, my colleagues on the Board, distinguished ladies and gentlemen,

It is my privilege to write to you and present the Annual Report for FY 2021-22. I hope this letter finds you safe and in good health.

Continuing to Enhance Shareholder Value

It gives me immense pleasure and sense of pride in stating that, during the Financial Year 2021-22 your Company has performed exceptionally well despite uncertainty in international market for Iron Ore Pellets since outbreak of COVID-19 Pandemic as well as an intense competitive market. The performance is reflective of the hard work and perseverance of dedicated employees working relentlessly for your Company's success. Please join me in congratulating employees of the Company for delivering an exceptionally successful Financial Year. Let me share the key performance highlights for the Financial Year 2021-22. During the year your Company had:

- Produced 2.030 million tons and dispatched 2.072 million tons of Pellet.
- Export sales of 2.032 million tonnes, highest post closure of captive mine.
- Dispatch of 3,79,150 Metric Tons, during March 22, highest post closure of captive mine.
- Earned revenue from operations of ₹ 3006.45 crs, highest since inception.
- Earned total Income of ₹ 3080.74 crs, highest since inception.
- Earned a PBT of ₹ 411.03 crs & PAT of ₹ 313.41 crs, highest post captive mine closure.
- Earned a Net Foreign Exchange of ₹ 2809.50 crs; highest post captive mine closure.
- Paid Interim Dividend of ₹ 59.56 crs for the FY 2021-22 and proposes final dividend of ₹ 48.01 crs.

Performance Highlights of First quarter of the FY 2022-23

The levy of 45% duty on export of Pellets had hit your Company hard resulting in intermittent operations of Pellet Plant and negative financial result. Despite above challenges, your Company has: -

- Achieved Pellet Production of 0.429 million tons as against target of 0.660 million tons.
- Dispatches 0.269 million tons of Pellets as against target of 0.650 million tons.
- Earned a total Revenue of ₹ 366.32 crs as against budget of ₹785.67 crs.
- Incurred a loss of ₹ 43.78 crs as against budget of ₹36.08 crs.

Future Outlook

The National Steel Policy, 2017 envisage 300 million tonnes of production capacity by 2030-31. The per capita consumption of steel has increased from 57.6 kgs to 74.1 kgs during the last five years. The government has fixed objective of increasing rural consumption of steel from the current 19.6 to 38 kg/per capita by 2030-31. The industry is witnessing consolidation of players, which has led to investment by entities from other sectors. The ongoing consolidation also presents an opportunity to global players to enter the Indian market. In October 2021, the Government of India announced guidelines for the approved specialty steel production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme and under the Union Budget 2022-23, ₹47 crore (US$ 6.2 million) was allocated to Ministry of Steel. The government's thrust on infrastructure, coupled with an increase in demand from the construction, engineering, and other sectors, is expected to push up domestic steel consumption in 2022. Apart from the production and consumption equation of steel, supply chain performance and logistical arrangements are expected to play a crucial role in 2022 amid the ongoing pandemic, and Russia, Ukraine conflict. On the back of these factors, it is reported that India to grow at 8.3–8.8% during FY 2021–22, followed by equally strong growth of more than 7.5% and 6.5% in the next two fiscal years, respectively. This will likely mean that the baton for the fastest-growing emerging country will be passed on from China to India in the coming years.

Levy of Export Duty

Govt. of India vide customs notice dated 21.05.2022 imposed 45% Export Duty on Export of Pellets, w.e.f., 22.05.2022. India's Pellet export market has turned silent after the announcement of the steep export duty. In an indication of the sharp fall in the domestic steel raw materials market after the recent export duty revision, many buyers who had booked Iron Ore from different miners have slowed down lifting of material. In the domestic market also, most of the sellers and buyers across regions preferred to remain silent. They are eagerly looking for some relief from the government as submissions have been sent to the government. Market participants are still under pressure after the duty imposition. As a result of export duty, the sale of Iron Ore Pellets in Export Market and prevailing price in Domestic Market has fallen below the viability level, so much so that it is not covering even the Iron Ore Fines landed cost at Pellet Plant at Mangalore. Consequently, the Company's Pellet Plant has been put under temporary shutdown due to non-viability. The Company has taken up with Ministry for waiver of export duty, since KIOCL is an EoU. Though the current market is in downward trend, your company is confident of bouncing back to the better performance in the days to come.

Way forward - Creating KIOCL of tomorrow

For a sustainable future, your Company is continuously working on various long term / short term expansion / diversifications projects, which are at different stages of implementations / approvals from different regulatory authorities at the level of State Government and Central Government.

CAPEX

Your Company had Incurred a CAPEX of ₹ 290.45 crs, highest post closure of captive mine during the Financial Year 2021-22 and for the current Financial Year i.e., 2022-23, your Company has earmarked an ambitious target of ₹ 384.63 crs.

Installation of Vertical Pressure Filters in PPU

Your company is installing Vertical Pressure Filters at Pellet Plant Unit with an estimated cost of ₹ 158.60 crs. Approx. 80% of main equipment erection has been completed. The project is expected to be commissioned shortly.

Setting up of Coke oven plant and DISP Plant with Modernization of BFU

Coke Oven plant:

Coke oven plant is part of backward integration project of BFU. KIOCL entered in to a tri-partite agreement on 22.11.2021 for installation of 1.8 LTPA Coke oven Plant at BFU, Mangalore. Technological plant Layout has been finalized with consultant and the basic engineering has been submitted by the EPC contractor. Civil Foundation works are under progress.

DISP Plant:

The company is exploring various alternatives for setting up of value addition facilities to the existing BFU. Offer received for installation of the DISP plant against global tender is under evaluation.

Development of Devadari Iron Ore Mine

MoEF&CC, Govt. of India accorded in principle stage-I Forest clearance on 24th June 2021 for an extent of 401.5761 ha with specific conditions. Company has paid an amount of ₹ 174.14 crs to Karnataka CAMPA towards forest statutory charges. Further, Govt. of Karnataka has forwarded Stage–I compliance report to MoEF&CC, GoI on 18.08.2022 for approval of Stage-II Forest clearance for Devadari Iron Ore Mine. On obtaining Stage-II Clearance Mining lease deed will be executed for development & commencement of Mining operations.

5Mw Solar Power Plant

Your Company has set up a 5 MW Solar Power Plant at Kathrikehal Village, Chikkanayakanhalli Taluk, Tumkuru Dist. to meet its partial power requirements at Mangalore Unit. The Project was commissioned in the year 2021-22 and total 77,17,200 kWh energy units were generated and wheeled to Pellet Plant for captive consumption, resulting into savings of ₹ 4.94 crs.

Implementation of ERP

Your Company is implementing ERP at a total cost of ₹ 20.31 crs and the ERP is expected to GO-LIVE shortly.

Mineral Exploration Works

During 2022, Company received total revenue of ₹ 0.79 crs and interest free advance amount of ₹ 1.99 crs towards execution of base metal Mineral Exploration Projects and Kyanite Project. KIOCL has entered into regime of carrying out Mineral Exploration for Base Metals by securing 2 projects and Industrial Mineral under NMET during FY 2021-22. Company received the Sanction Orders for carrying out G4 level of ME works of base metal projects in Davangere & Bellary with Project cost of ₹ 3.06 crs, which are under execution. Currently, company is handling 13 Exploration Projects with cumulative value of ₹122.67 crs.

Corporate Social Responsibility - Growth with Goodness

Your Company continued its comprehensive and need based support to the communities in and around its

projects area. In its commitment to the underprivileged communities, the Company carried out various CSR activities worth ₹ 13.41 crs during the year i.e., 4.28% of the net profit to have an impactful social development. Your Company also contributed ₹ 10 crs to PM CARES FUND to support and strengthen the hands of Government to combat the third wave of COVID-19 Pandemic.

Corporate Governance

The philosophy of your Company in relation to corporate governance is to ensure transparency, disclosures and reporting that confirms fully with the laws and regulations of the country in order to promote ethical conduct & practices throughout the organisation for enhancing stakeholders' value. Your Company is committed to complying with the provisions of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 relating to Corporate Governance and the guidelines on Corporate Governance for CPSE's issued by Department of Public Enterprises from time to time.

Acknowledgements

I take this opportunity to thank the Board Members and particularly distinguished Govt. Nominee Directors, Independent Directors for their continued leadership support to the Company and its employees. I also thank employees of Company without whose efforts and commitment, the Company could not have performed so well in the current challenging conditions. I would also like to thank and acknowledge the continued co-operation, trust and support of Central and State Governments /Regulatory authorities, Company's valued customers, suppliers, vendors, investors, bankers and shareholders.

Thank You

T. Saminathan
Chairman-cum-Managing Director

Date: 17.09.2022 Place: Bangalore

Note: This does not purport to be a record of the proceedings of the Annual General Meeting

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Timings
BENGALURU

MONDAY, SEP. 19
RISE 06:09 SET 18:18
RISE 00:26 SET 13:47

TUESDAY, SEP. 20
RISE 06:09 SET 18:17
RISE 01:18 SET 14:36

WEDNESDAY, SEP. 21
RISE 06:09 SET 18:16
RISE 02:10 SET 15:23

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	31	24
Mysuru	28	21
Bengaluru	29	21

Bengaluru Today
30°C The weather will be slight warm and humid. Night will be pleasant. Spell of light rain or thundershower is possible.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
30°C A mostly dry weather to prevail. Day will be slight warm and humid. Night will be comfortable.

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THE HINDU
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Students and parents complain of poor quality uniform cloth

They say it is too thin and transparent

JAYANTH R.
BENGALURU

Amidst allegations of widespread corruption in the functioning of the Department of Primary and Secondary Education, students and parents have now complained that the cloths for school uniforms distributed in Tumakuru, Mandya, and Mysuru are of a poor quality. Complaints have come from Tumakuru, the home district of Minister for Primary and Secondary Education B.C. Nagesh, who is already under a cloud after Recognised Unaided Private Schools Association (RUPSA) wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi alleging widespread corruption in the department.

Issue flagged earlier

The cloths distributed to students are too thin and transparent, especially unsuitable for girl students, parents and members of School Development and Monitoring Committee (SDMC) have alleged. Multiple headmasters and Block Education Officers confirmed to *The Hindu* that the cloths distributed were of a lower quality compared to the previous years, and they had flagged the issue with higher authorities in the department.

A girl showing the low quality of uniform cloth given at the Government school in Gubbi taluk.

C.G. Lokesh, parents of two girl students in Gubbi Taluk, Tumakuru, said teachers at his daughters' school distributed unstitched uniform cloths on September 4.

"The cloths are very thin and are transparent. It is impossible for girl students to get them stitched. I have lodged complaints against the same with both the headmaster and the BEO. We had heard of allegations of 40% commission, but we seem to be experiencing it now," he said. "On receiving complaints, we questioned the firm supplying the cloth. But they said they were supplying as per tender norms. We have sent a detailed report with samples of the cloth to the Deputy Director, Department of Public Instruction (DDPI) and the Commissioner of the Department of School Education and Literacy," said Somashekhar, BEO, Gubbi Taluk.

A headmaster of a government primary school from Mysuru district, who did not wish to be named said they had also received several complaints of poor quality clothes and they had verified the clothes distributed this year with those distributed in the previous years. "It is evident that the distributor has sent lower quality clothes. We have flagged the issue with higher ups in the Department," he said.

Bengaluru's streetlights to turn smart and intelligent

These LED lights will reduce energy wastage: Civic body

DARSHAN DEVAIAH B.P.
BENGALURU

The city's civic body is all set to replace the existing streetlights with 'smart intelligent lights' to curb energy wastage. It will also set up a Centralized Control & Monitoring System (CCMS) from where the streetlights can be managed.

The new intelligent streetlights will be LED lights, replacing the existing sodium vapour lamps. According to BBMP officials, this will be implemented in another two months in all the eight BBMP zones in the city.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, a senior BBMP official said, "The civic body recently proposed the project to replace the existing conventional lamps with smart intelligent LED lights to reduce the energy wastage and to track all issues related to the street light from the control room."

"We will replace the old lamps with new intelligent LED lights on ward roads, arterial and sub-arterial roads and wherever required. In some places, the poles are in place, but there are no lights, while in some places, both poles and lights need to be installed," the official added.

The project will be implemented in another two months in all the eight BBMP zones in Bengaluru.

CCMS in 8 zonal offices

The civic body, which has control over the functioning of streetlights in Bengaluru, will set up the CCMS in eight zonal offices of the BBMP from where the smart lights will be controlled and managed. From the control room, an official can adjust the lighting systems, rather than just flicking a switch.

This will also help save energy as presently in many areas across the city, lights are seen still burning even after during day time.

The project will also help in the maintenance of streetlights, a pain point across the city presently. It will also help the BBMP to note the exact consumption of energy, which is used to define the cost to be paid to the electricity provider and also the exact reason why the light is not working.

The civic body has already begun replacing sodium vapour lamps with LED light in a phased manner across zones. However, these are not intelligent streetlights. There are over 4.85 lakh street lights in the city.

Robots becoming doctors' assistants

This technology-assisted procedure offers more precision and accuracy

AFSHAN YASMEEN
BENGALURU

When a 66-year-old lecturer from Hosapete was advised knee replacement for his chronic pain, the first question that bothered him was how soon he would be able to get back on his feet.

"I have heard people cannot walk on their own for at least a month after the surgery. I do not want to depend on others for such a long time," he told doctors.

When doctors at SPARSH Hospitals told him that his recovery would be less painful and quick with a robotic joint replacement surgery, he opted for it. "His knee replacement was done using Mako Robotic-Arm assisted technology that allows surgeons to reproduce precise bone cuts for patients, every single time, first on a virtual 3D model and then in the operation theatre. He is up on his feet, able to walk on his own within two weeks," said Ravikumar Mukartihal, Robotic Joint Replacement surgeon at the hospital.

He said this technology-assisted procedure offers more precision and accuracy with less blood loss apart from shorter hospital stay.

"In case of a knee or hip surgery, Mako System's software helps create a 3D model of the diseased joint based on the patient's CT scan. The software then allows the creation of a personalised virtual surgical plan for each patient, based on their specific disease condition. This planning, done even before entering the operation theatre, helps in deciding the most accurate bone cuts and alignment of implants," Dr. Mukartihal explained.

Various specialities

Robotic surgeries are now offered in various specialities such as organ transplants, surgical oncology, urology, gynaecology, surgical gastroenterology, general surgery, paediatric surgery, and even ophthalmology.

Vishal Rao U.S., director Head Neck Oncology - Robotic Surgery at HCG Cancer Centre, recalled, "In my formative years all I had at my disposal were two small eyes and two big hands. Today, I have a robot assisting me with one big powerful eye and two small nimble hands."

Somashekhar S.P., chairman - Medical Advisory Board and Global Director at Aster International Institute of Oncology, said more patients were now accepting robotic surgeries mainly because of shorter hospital stay, low risk of complications, and speedy recovery. "Last year, 100 new robots were introduced in India both in private and public hospitals," he said.

Smart tools

Naren Shetty, vice-chairman and head of Cataract and Refractive Surgery at Narayana Nethralaya, said robotics-assisted smart tools are used widely in ophthalmology. "Femtosecond laser-assisted cataract surgery - is an innovative bladeless surgical option for cataract patients. In this surgery, a laser machine is used first to make the incisions, create an opening in the lens capsule and break the cataract into smaller pieces. These incisions are precise, consistent and safer than manual incisions," he said.

Mohammed Rehan Sayeed, consultant Cardiothoracic Vascular Surgery at Manipal Hospitals (Yeshwantpur and Hebbal), said robotics is extensively being used in cardiothoracic and vascular surgery too.

"In case of bypass surgery, the robot assists in taking down the conduits, and without making a large incision or cutting through the breastbone (with a small 5-cm incision)," he said.

A word of caution

Hema Divakar, chair of Well Woman Healthcare Committee at FIGO (International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics), said the increasing popularity of robotic surgery can lead to an increase in irrational demand by the patients.

"This may lead to the irrational use of robotic surgery in view of fear of missing out. Besides the cost of the machine, the expenditure incurred in setting up a facility dedicated to robotic surgery is huge. Much more concerning is the recurring cost of the instruments," she said.

Following this, costs of robotic surgeries remain high.

'No land in Jakkur aerodrome will be given to private parties'

Minister says there are proposals to take up aviation activities in a phased manner, including simulator training

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Amidst allegations that the State government is attempting to give 75 acres of land of Government Flying Training School at Jakkur to a private party, under the Private Public Partnership (PPP) model, for establishing an aero club and running commercial activities, the Youth Empowerment and Sports minister Narayana Gowda has denied the same.

He said the government was initiating several programmes to upgrade and revive the flying school. In a statement issued on Sunday, he said the State government has a proposal for development of an aerodrome such as a simulator, hangar and other amenities. Other proposals include an aviation knowledge center, ground crew training, museum, adventure sports, drone flying training, heli tourism and others.

"In the last four years, some vested interests have tried to close the Flying Training School at Jakkur. The real-estate mafia had colluded in this. When this was brought to my notice, the school was revived and pilot training was given to 100 unemployed youth. Misinformation is being spread after notices were served against illegal construction of buildings. Action will be taken on this illegal construction of buildings," the minister has said in a press statement.

Mr. Gowda has said there are proposals to take up aviation activities in a phased manner, including simulator training. He said activities at Jakkur aerodrome will generate revenue to the State government. The proposals will be made for public opinion and based on the public response further decision will be taken. "There is no proposal to give the land to any private party," the minister said.

The press note further states that "The previous government had ordered providing 25 acres of land to Rajiv Gandhi Aero Sports Society which I have cancelled." The reports about reserving 50 acres of land for commercial buildings is baseless. He added the order issued by the previous government for opening a flying club at Jakkur was also cancelled. The letter states that on March 13, 2018, the government had issued an order reserving 15 acres of the land for the flying club. The order was cancelled on September 9, 2021.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. CAO/CN/BNC/74/2022
Dated:14-09-2022
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites Tenders for the following work:

Name of work	Approx. Value
Construction of New Broad Gauge Line Track between Marikuppam (Incl.) and Dravidian University (5.72 Km) under Marikuppam-Kuppam New Line Project (23.7 Km) including Telecommunication & Electrical Works. (Tender Ref. No.:MKM-KPN-05-EPC)	Rs. 1,31,54,28,000/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 12-12-2022**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Chief Materials Manager, Construction Bengaluru Cantonment
PUB/371/AAD/PRB/SWR/2022-23
S.W.Railways SWRRLY SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. BGK-NAV_MSDAC_2022-23-04
Dated : 13-09-2022
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender for the following work:

Item of work	Approx. Value
Provision of Multi Section Digital Axle counter at Bagalkot Jn. - Navanagar Station (With One Central and 4 Goomties) in conection with Doubling of Gadag-Hotgi Section of Hubballi Division.	Rs. 5,71,55,986/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15.00 Hrs. on 06-10-2022**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Deputy Chief Signal & Telecom. Engineer Construction/Hubballi
PUB/369/AAD/PRB/SWR/2022-23
S.W.Railways SWRRLY SWRRLY

PUBLIC NOTICE
Our client (Client) is desirous of entering into Transactions of Purchasing the Schedule Property Morefully described in the Schedule hereto and hereinafter referred as SCHEDULE PROPERTY of **M/S. INDUS PALMS HOTELS & RESORTS LIMITED**, PAN No.AABCI2560F, having its office H.No.2-55/HH [Sy.No.25], Hill Ridge Springs, Gachibowli, Hyderabad-500032, (Hereinafter referred to as the **LAND OWNER**) which was earlier owned & managed by one **MR. R. PRABHAKAR REDDY, S/o Mr N. Rama Reddy** Aged about 49 years, Residing at No.1051, 19th Cross, 8th B Main, 7th Sector, H.S.R Layout, BANGALORE-560 034 [PAN:AEJPR2597L] [Aadhaar No.4078 9949 1341] has represented to our client that They are the absolute owner and in Possession with unrestricted rights of alienation over the same. Notice is hereby given to the general public that Any Person or Group of persons or institutions other than the **LAND OWNER** Mentioned above having any interest or Right, 'Title, Interest, Charge, Lien or any sort of Claims in Whatsoever Manner over the Schedule Property are hereby called upon to submit to the undersigned their objections, if any, to the proposed Transaction in connection with the Schedule Property. The Said Objections must be in writing, Together with Documentary Proof of such claims and should reach us at the address given below within a Period of **10 (Ten) days** from the date of this Publication of this Notice, if no such Objections are received, it shall be deemed that no one else other than the owners mentioned above has/have any right, title interest or claim whatsoever in respect of the Schedule Property and our client would be at Absolute liberty to proceed with the Transaction in connection with the Said Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTIES

Item No-1 (A-Schedule Property)
All that piece and parcel of immovable property being agricultural land bearing **Survey No.20 (old Survey No. 5/22), measuring 3 (Three) Acres 8 (Eight) Guntas**, situated at Agasathimmanahalli, Kasaba Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore and bounded on the:
East by : Property bearing Survey No. 22;
West by : Properties bearing Survey No. 30;
North by : Remaining Portion of Property bearing Survey No. 20; and
South by : Properties bearing Survey No.27 and Survey No.28.

Item No-2 (B-Schedule Property)
All that piece and parcel of immovable property being agricultural land bearing **Survey No.22 (old Survey No. 5/23), measuring 4 (Four) Acres 8 (Eight) Guntas**, situated at Agasathimmanahalli, Kasaba Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore and bounded on the:
East by : Property bearing Survey No.23;
West by : Properties bearing Survey No.20;
North by : Remaining Portion of Property bearing Survey No. 22, and
South by : Properties bearing Survey No.26 and Survey No.27.

Item No-3 (C-Schedule Property)
All that piece and parcel of immovable property being agricultural land bearing **Survey No.30 (old Survey No. 5/21), measuring 4 (Four) Acres 32 (Thirty Two) Guntas**, situated at Agasathimmanahalli, Kasaba Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore and bounded on the:
East by : Property bearing Survey No.20;
West by : Properties bearing Survey No.31;
North by : Property bearing Survey No.19; and
South by : Properties bearing Survey No.28 and Survey No.29.

SRI P. MAHESHA & VINOD KUMAR, ADVOCATES
#60, ASHIRVAD, 2nd Cross, Royal Gardeenia Lay out, Near Canara Bank, Bommasandra Branch, Bangalore-560099
Email: mpunyakoti@gmail.com|advocatevinodkumar7@gmail.com
Mob: +91 9448484138, +91 9036690352 **Date: 19/09/2022**

Karnataka Urban Water Supply & Drainage Board , Office of Chief Engineer
Jalamandali Compound, Sir M. Visvesvaraya Road, Dharwad – 580 001, e-mail : - kwbcen@gmail.com, Office No: 0836-2447090,

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-Procurement Portal only)
Lumpsum Tender for the following work is invited (two cover system) through e-Procurement portal (https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in) from the eligible Agency / contractors who satisfy the Technical & Financial eligibility criteria.
Replacement of weak sections in existing 965mm dia OD MS pipeline replacing by new MS pipeline in Pure Water Rising Main at different Chainages from Kolhar PWPH to Mulawad IPS - Under 15th Finance works at Vijayapur city for the year 2021-22. WORK INDENT No:KUWSDB/2022-23/WS/WORK_INDENT3220 For further information visit e-procurement portal. For further details, the Office of the Chief Engineer, K.U.W.S & D. Board, Dharwad may please be contacted.
Sd/- Chief Engineer
KUWS & D. Board, Dharwad.

VIII 4640/22 PF 10/- CCH-89 Hg 26/9/2022
IN THE COURT OF THE HON'BLE COMMERCIAL COURT JUDGE (CCH-89) AT BENGALURU COM. O.S. No. 214/2021
BETWEEN
M/s. Microgensis CAD Soft Pvt. Ltd.
A Private limited company having its office at #524, 9th Saraki, JP Nagar, 3rd Phase Bengaluru- 560078.
Represented by its Authorized Attorney & HOD-Administration & Corporate Affairs
Mr.Mitra Peri ....**PLAINTIFF**
AND:
M/s S& T Global Engineering Services Pvt Ltd And Others ....**DEFENDANTS**
SUMMONS /NOTICE TO DEFENDANT No.2
Defendant No.2
M/s S&T Global Engineering Services Pvt Ltd
Now at No.47, 11th Main, 3d Cross, Andhra Layout Anantapur, Bangalore -560064
By Director Mr.Suryanarayana Dhandapani & Mr.Dinesh Manjunath
Whereas the Plaintiff has filed the above suit against the defendants for relief of recovery of money. Hence you are hereby summoned to appear before this Hon'ble Court, either in person or through the pleader **on the 26th day of Sep 2022 (26.09.2022) at 11.00 AM** to answer the same, failing which the matter will be, heard ex-parte.
Give under my hand and seal of the Court on this the 17th day of Sep 2022.
By order of the court
Sd/- Sheristedar
City Civil Court, Bengaluru
ADVOCATE FOR PLAINTIFF
K.S. Raghuram, Advocate
"Pro Legal", #524, 10th Main, 33rd Cross, IV Block Jayanagar, Bengaluru 560 011
Ph : 080-2663 6455, 9844109456
Email:prolegalbn@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE
My clients Mr. RAMESH S/o Sundaramurthy, residing at No.15, Bajjappa Layout, Hessarghatta Main Road, Tharabanahalli, Hurali Chikkanahalli, Chikkabanavara, Bengaluru 560 090, is the owner of the property bearing No.15, Assessment No.30/6/7, Khatha No.4, situated at Tharabanahalli Grama, Hurulichikkanahalli Grama Panchayath, Hesaraghatta Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, (hereinafter referred to as "said Property), he purchased the same through sale deed from B M Shamanna. But previous sale deed dated 27-12-2012 executed by Maadhu, in favour of B M Shyamanna on 27-12-2022 registered as Document No HSR-107775-2012-13 in Book 1 and stored in CD No.HSRD135, in the Office of the Sub Registrar, Gandhinagara (Hesaraghatta), Bengaluru.
My client Mr. Ramesh S/o Sundaramurthy has lost/misplaced the documents, he could not trace the Original Sale Deed dated 27-12-2022 entered by Maadhu to B M Shyamanna in respect of the said Property. My client have lodged online complaint on 15-09-2022 with Bengaluru City Police, vide Lost Report No.0323720/2022 intimating loss of the aforesaid original documents.
Any persons(s) finding the aforesaid original documents may please hand over the same any claims to have any right, title or interest in the said Property, he/she shall intimate the same in writing with documentary evidence to the undersigned within 10 (Ten) days of the publication of this notice, after which date no claims will be entertained.
Place: Bengaluru Sd/-
Dated: 18-09-2022 **CHANDRAKALA, Advocate and Notary,**
Public Govt India
NO.293, 6th Cross, Indiranagar
Rajajinagar, WOC Road,
Bengaluru-560 010

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform General Public that the **State Level Impact Assessment Authority, Karnataka** (Constituted by Ministry of Environment & Forests), has issued the Environment Clearance to **Mr. A. C. Chandrashekar Raju.** vide **File No. SEIAA 61 CON 2020, for construction of Commercial Building (Hospital) situated at Khata No. 241/359/358/314/13/3, Konankunte Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore, Karnataka.**
The Environmental Clearance issued by State Level Impact Assessment Authority, Karnataka can be accessed at the website **http://www.envfor.nic.in**

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN:U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No: 903/SEE/Tr(W&M)/SEE/T-1/22-23/CYS-26 **Date: 17.09.2022**
TENDER NOTIFICATION
(e-Procurement Mode only)
KPTCL invites tenders against following works on Partial Turnkey basis.
(1) KPTCL/903/SEE/HBL/Tr(W&M)/EE(O)/AEE-1/2022-23/SWG/Rattihalli for Providing additional 03 Nos of New MCVCB switchgear for bifurcation of overloaded 11KV feeders at 110KV MUSS Rattihalli, in TL&SS Division, Haveri
(2)KPTCL/903/SEE/HBL/Tr(W&M)/EE(O)/AEE-1/2022-23/SWG/Hirekerur for Providing additional 11KV 01 IC+6F MCVCB switchgear for bifurcation of overloaded 11KV feeders at 110KV MUSS Hirekerur, in TL&SS Division, Haveri.
(3)KPTCL/903/SEE/HBL/Tr(W&M)/EE(O)/AEE-1/2022-23/SWG/Tumminakatti for Providing additional 01 IC+6F 11KV PCVCBs to bifurcate the overloaded feeders at 110KV SS Tumminakatti in TL&SS Division, Haveri.
The tenders will be received through e-procurement mode only. The detailed notifications regarding the above works enquiry in the e- procurement process can be obtained by logging on website **http//eproc.karnataka.gov.in on or after 19.09.2022.** other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.
Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele),
Transmission (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Karwar Road, Vidyuthnagar, Hubballi-24, Phone No: 0836-2203094

PUBLIC NOTICE
My Client **SRI. RANGA RAO** S/o. Late. M. Ramaiah, aged about 65 Years, Presently R/at Maruthi Nagar, Nallore Road, Chikkamagaluru-577101, has entered into a registered Agreement of Sale **dated 26-12-2015** vide **Doc. No. KDR-1-05362-2015-16** with **M/s. Sri Ventures Land Developers India Ltd**, a company registered under the Companies Act, 1956 presently having office at No. 82/1, 1st Floor, Dr. Rajkumar Road, Prakashnagar, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru-10, Rep. by its Director, to purchase the sites having different sizes mentioned in Schedule 'B' properties which are part and parcel of Schedule 'A' property mentioned below. My client's Vendor company have entered into a registered Joint Development Agreement dated 20-05-2013 vide Doc. No. KDR-1-05513-2014-15 and supplementary agreement dated 05-11-2015 vide Doc. No. KDR-4-00293-2015-16 with the landlords of the schedule 'A' property to form residential layout therein and got converted the land vide conversion order dated 11-08-2014 vide No. A2.ALN/CR/252, 253, 254, 255/2013-14 from the Deputy Commissioner of Chikkamagalur District. Thereafter got approved the layout plan from the Town Planning Authority, Bengaluru on 05-12-2014 vide order No. [illegible]/01/2014-15. My client has purchased the schedule 'B' properties from the Vendor company herein out of its share allotted by virtue of the registered Joint Development Agreement dated 20-05-2013 and 05-11-2015. Further my client has paid substantial part sale consideration amount to aforesaid Vendor Company out of total sale consideration mentioned in the agreement of sale dated 20-05-2013, same is acknowledged and confirmed by them. Further the Vendor Company in continuation of the earlier contract on oral contract and promise dated 15-06-2020 agreed to execute the sale deed in favour of my client on receipt of the balance sale consideration hence the said registered agreement of sale and oral contract still subsists and same is in force for all practical purpose. To avoid the third party transaction over the schedule 'B' property issued this public notice.
Any Person/Society/Firm or any other body, having any manner of right, title, interest, claim on the below mentioned schedule 'B' property or any part thereof by way of any agreement, contract, lease, trust, inheritance, gift, possession, lien, charge, mortgage, exchange or by any such deed/instrument of transfer, easement or otherwise, may submit their objection(s), claim(s) in writing with us at the under mentioned address through Registered Post acknowledgement due along with the supporting documentary proof, within 15 (Fifteen) days from the date of this publication. Any objections received thereafter will not be binding on my client and will proceed to complete the sale transaction. Further in case above named my client vendor company or its director done any manner or any type of transaction in pursuant to the aforesaid registered agreement of sale dated 26/12/2015 and oral contact dated 15/06/2020 suppressing the same with any third party same will be void and invalid transaction for all practical purpose and such transaction is not binding on my client in any manner.

SCHEDULE 'A' PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of the site formed in the layout which was converted by the Deputy Commissioner, Chikmagalore on 11-08-2014 in proceedings No. A2: ALN CR 252, 253, 254, 255, 2013-14 and jurisdictional Bangalore Town Planning Authority had approved the layout plan vide order No.[illegible]/01/2014-15. dated 05-12-2014 for the following Sy No's
a) Sy.No.6/1, measuring 12 guntas. b) Sy.No.7/4, measuring 17 guntas c) Sy.No.10/3, measuring 1 Acre. d)Sy.No.10/2, measuring 1 Acre 9 Guntas. e) Sy.No.11, measuring 8 Acres 27 Guntas. f) Sy.No.39, measuring 1 Acre 1 Guntas. g) Sy.No.40/2, measuring 1 Acre 39 guntas. h) Sy.No.41/1, 3 Acres 9 Guntas. i) Sy.No.41, measuring 5 Acres. j) Sy.No. 12/2, measuring 6 Acres. k) Sy.No.12/1, measuring 6 acres 13 guntas.
The property in total measuring 35 acres 07 guntas having common boundary situated at V.L. Nagar, (Tangli village), Kasaba Hobli, Kadur and bounded on:
East by : Private property with Coconut Garden, **West by :** Marabovi B.H. Road.
North by : Veda River Channel, **South by :** Marawanji village Road.

SCHEDULE 'B' PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of Residential Sites bearing No. which is morefully described and attached as ANNEXURE 1 and total measuring 9613.92 Sq. Ft vide conversion order dated 11-08-2014 vide order dated 22-01-2014 in No. A2: ALN CR 252, 253, 254, 255, 2013-14 by Deputy Commissioner, Chikkamagalur situated at V.L. Nagar, (Tangli village) Kasaba Hobli, Kadur, which has been approved by Bangalore Town Planning Authority vide resolution No. [illegible]/01/2014-15 dated 05-12-2014, possession is not given.

ANNEXURE 1

Sl. No.	Site No.	Sq. Mt/Ft	Sy. No.	East	West	North	South
1	353	108 Mt	12	Sn.352	Road	Sn.354	Road
2	267	135 Mt	12	Road	Sn.294	Sn.226	Sn.268
3	326	135 Mt	12	Road	Sn.336	Sn.325	Sn.327
4	199	216 Mt	40/2	Sn.184	Road	Sn.200	Road
5	499	3013.92 Ft	12	Road	Sn.500	Road	Sn.508 & 509

N. VEERABHADRAIAH, Advocate
10th Floor, Tower Block, Unity Building, Mission Road, Bengaluru -27.
Mob: 94483 88949. E-mail: ijoormgm@gmail.com

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Government of Karnataka Zilla Panchayat,
Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Chikkamagaluru
Ph.: 08262-220936 e-mail: zpedckm@rediffmail.com
Tender Notice No.: AE/06/2022-23 Date: 15.09.2022

Tender Notice

Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Chikkamagaluru invites Tenders through e-procurement related to works of Chikkamagaluru, Kadur, Koppa, Mudigere, N.R. Pura and Ajjampura Taluks in Chikkamagaluru District. Maximum Amount of work is Rs. 100.00 lakhs and Minimum Amount is Rs. 4.00 lakhs. Details of capability to undertake or of having implemented the works should be attached as per Standard Tender Document KW-1, 2 & 3. For the said works the documents downloaded from e-procurement can be filled and uploaded from 15.09.2022 to 29.09.2022 up to 5.00 PM. If possible the Technical Bid will be opened on 01.10.2022 at 5.00 PM. If possible the Financial Bid will be opened on 10.10.2022 at 11.00 AM. If these days are declared as holidays then the next day will be considered. Notice can be read on www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in Further details can be obtained by contacting the case worker during office hours.

Sd/-Executive Engineer
Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Chikkamagaluru
DIPR/CKM/142/MCA/22-23/930

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform to the General Public and **Shri. N.R. Ashok**, No.52, 5th 'C' Main, Narayanappa Block, R.T. Nagar, Bangalore-560 032, that our client Central Bank of India, Malleshwaram Branch, Jayam Shopping Complex, 100-107, Sampige Road, Malleshwaram, Bangalore-560 003 has sanctioned and disbursed Rs.35,70,000/- and Rs.4,28,000/- to **V.S. Ramaswamy and S.N. Jayalakshmi** under Reverse Mortgage Loan enabled Annuity (RMLeA) under the Bank's **CENT SWABHIMAN PLUS** Scheme through Bank's Sanction Letters dated 14.08.2012 and 07.01.2017. Subsequent to the sanction of the above loan/s to V.S. Ramaswamy and S.N. Jayalakshmi they have executed various loan documents in favour of Bank, for the above said loan/s Shri. N.R. Ashok is the Assignee. Subsequently, V.S. Ramaswamy **died on 29.09.2018** intestate living behind his wife S.N. Jayalakshmi to succeed to his estate, later S.N. Jayalakshmi died on 19.07.2020. According to the policy of the above loan after the death of the borrowers, the Assignee supposed to come forward and clear the loan, but here in this loan Shri. N.R. Ashok has not come forward to clear the loan, even after giving sufficient opportunity and after the issuance of the notice. Hence, the Bank intends to proceed further with respect to the mortgaged property according to the law. Hence, this public notice.

Shri. N.R. Ashok / Any person/s, Society/s, Association/s, Government Authority/s, Financial Institution/s, Bank/s, Judicial Authorities asserting any right, title interest or claim in the Schedule Property or any part thereof in any manner or having any claim against the schedule property or the Documents thereof or objecting to such action write or contact us within 07 days from the date of issuance of this public notice to clear the loan/s along with interest, after which period, our client shall proceed on the basis that there are no claims of whatsoever nature with regard to the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE OF THE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Site No.13, Old Katha No.800/786/13, Presently bearing Katha No.616/13 issued by the Byatarayanapura CMC, Bangalore-560 092, out of Converted Survey Nos.53/1B and 2A, New No.53/1B 5 and 53/2A 3, Converted for Non-Agricultural Residential purpose vide Official Memorandum No.B.DIS.ALN:SR (N) 13/88-89, dated 24.05.1989, Situated at Mohammed Sab Palya, Jarakabandekaval Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, now comes under the limit of BBMP, it had allotted the Municipal No.437/616/13, Vidhyaranyapura Division, Jarakabandekaval, Bangalore, measuring East to West: 30-0 (Thirty) Feet and North to South: 40-0 (Forty) Feet, in all 133.33 Square Yards or 111.48 Square Meters or 1200 Square Feet and bounded on: **East by** : Property bearing Site No.14; **West by** : Property bearing Site No.12; **North by** : Property bearing Site No.02; **South by** : 30 feet wide Road.

Sd/- M/S A.K. VASANTH & D.V. GIRISH ASSOCIATES
ADVOCATES, No.201 & 202, Second Floor, Jayam Shopping Centre, B/w 7th and 8th Cross, Sampige Road, Malleswaram, Bangalore-560 003.
Date : 16.09.2022

KERALA BANK
KERALA STATE CO-OPERATIVE BANK
PB No. 6515, Co Bank Towers, Vikas Bhavan P.O., Palayam, Thiruvananthapuram, Pin - 695033.

E-TENDER NOTICE

The Kerala State Co-operative Bank invites competitive quotations on E-tender mode from reputed printers for printing and supply of 40,000 Nos of Planner and 2,50,000 Nos. of Calendar of the Bank. E-tender documents containing specification, terms & conditions etc. can be obtained from e-tenders website of Kerala State Govt. **(www.etenders.kerala.gov.in)**. Details are also available in the Bank's Website: **www.keralacobank.com.**

The last date of submission of E-tenders is **03/10/2022 before 2 p.m.**

16/09/2022 (Sd/-) **Chief Executive Officer**

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Client Sri. **C.N. RAJENDRA** S/o Late. Narayan Setty C.N, aged about 71 Years, Presently R/at No. 840/C, 1st E Main Road, 2nd Phase, Girinagar, Bengaluru-560085, has entered into a registered Agreement of Sale **dated 26-12-2015** vide **Doc. No. KDR-1-05359-2015-16** with **M/s. Sri Ventures Land Developers India Ltd**, a company registered under the Companies Act 1956 presently having office at No. 82/1, 1st Floor, Dr. Rajkumar Road, Prakashnagar, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru-10, Rep. by its Director, to purchase the sites having different sizes mentioned in Schedule 'B' properties which are part and parcel of Schedule 'A' property mentioned below. My client's Vendor company have entered into a registered Joint Development Agreement dated 20-05-2013 vide Doc. No. KDR-1-05513-2014-15 and supplementary agreement dated 05-11-2015 vide Doc. No. KDR-4-00293-2015-16 with the landlords of the schedule 'A' property to form residential layout therein and got converted the land vide conversion order dated 11-08-2014 vide No. A2 ALN/CR/252, 253, 254, 255/2013-14 from the Deputy Commissioner of Chikkamagalur District. Thereafter got approved the layout plan from the Town Planning Authority, Bengaluru on 05-12-2014 vide order No. [illegible]/01/2014-15 My client has purchased the schedule 'B' properties from the Vendor Company herein out of its share allotted by virtue of the registered Joint Development Agreement dated 20-05-2013 and 05-11-2015. Further my client has paid substantial part sale consideration amount to aforesaid Vendor Company out of total sale consideration mentioned in the agreement of sale dated 20-05-2013, same is acknowledged and confirmed by them. Further the Vendor Company have received further part sale consideration amount on 15-06-2020 from my client through his bank account and on oral contract promised to execute sale in my client favour on receipt of the balance sale consideration amount, hence the said registered agreement of sale still subsists and in force for all practical purpose. To avoid the third party interest over the schedule property issued this public notice.

Any Person/Society/Firm or any other body, having any manner of right, title, interest, claim on the below mentioned schedule 'B' property or any part thereof by way of any agreement, contract, lease, trust, inheritance, gift, possession, lien, charge, mortgage, exchange or by any such deed/instrument of transfer, easement or otherwise, may submit their objection(s), claim(s) in writing with us at the under mentioned address through Registered Post acknowledgement due along with the supporting documentary proof, within 15 (Fifteen) days from the date of this publication. Any objections received thereafter will not be binding on my client and will proceed to complete the sale transaction. Further in case above named my client vendor company or its director done any manner or any type of transaction in pursuant to the aforesaid registered agreement of sale dated 26/12/2015 and oral contract dated 15/06/2020 suppressing the same with any third party same will be void and invalid transaction such transaction is not binding on my client in any manner.

SCHEDULE 'A' PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the site formed in the layout which was converted by the Deputy Commissioner, Chikmagalore on 11-08-2014 in proceedings No. A2: ALN.CR.252, 253, 254, 255, 2013-14 and jurisdictional Bangalore Town Planning Authority had approved the layout plan vide order No. [illegible]/01/2014-15. dated 05-12-2014 for the following Sy No's

a) Sy.No.6/1, measuring 12 guntas. b) Sy.No.7/4, measuring 17 guntas. c) Sy.No.10/3, measuring 1 Acre. d) Sy.No.10/2, measuring 1 Acre 9 Guntas. e) Sy.No.11, measuring 8 Acres 27 Guntas. f) Sy.No.39, measuring 1 Acre 1 Guntas. g) Sy.No.40/2, measuring 1 Acre 39 guntas. h) Sy.No.41/1, 3 Acres 9 Guntas. i) Sy.No.41, measuring 5 Acres. j) Sy.No. 12/2, measuring 6 Acres. k) Sy.No.12/1, measuring 6 acres 13 guntas.

The property in total measuring 35 acres 07 guntas having common boundary situated at V.L. Nagar, (Tangli village), Kasaba Hobli, Kadur and bounded on:
East by : Private property with Coconut Garden, **West by** : Marabovi B.H. Road,
North by : Veda River Channel, **South by** : Maravanji village Road.

SCHEDULE 'B' PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of Residential Sites bearing No. which is morefully described and attached as ANNEXURE 1 and total measuring 14785.84 Sq. Ft vide conversion order dated 11-08-2014 vide order dated 22-01-2014 in No. A2: ALN.CR.252, 253, 254, 255, 2013-14 by Deputy Commissioner, Chikkamagalur situated at V.L. Nagar, (Tangli village) Kasaba Hobli, Kadur, which has been approved by Bangalore Town Planning Authority vide resolution No. [illegible]/01/2014-15 dated 05-12-2014, possession is not given

ANNEXURE 1

Sl. No.	Site No.	Sq. Mt/Ft	Sy. No.	East	West	North	South
1.	229	108 Mt	39	Sn.208	Road	Sn.230	Road
2.	258	108 Mt	12	Sn.243	Road	Sn. 259	Sn.257
3	215	135 Mt	39 & 40/2	Road	Sn.222	Sn.214	Sn.216
4	241	135 Mt	12	Road	Sn.260	Road	Sn.242
5	187	216 Mt	40/1 & 40/2	Road	Sn.196	Sn.186	Sn.188
6	23	2641.7 Ft	11	Sn.24	Sn.22	Road	Road
7	503	4144.14 Ft	12	Sn.502	PP	Road	Sn.504

M. VEERABHADRAIAH, Advocate
10th Floor, Tower Block, Unity Building, Mission Road, Bengaluru -27.
Mob: 94483 88949. E-mail: ijcommgm@gmail.com

pharmexcil
PHARMACEUTICALS EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL OF INDIA
(Set up by Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Govt. of India)
Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

iPHEX & GLOBAL REGULATORS CONCLAVE
21 - 23 SEPTEMBER, 2022
IEML, KNOWLEDGE PARK II, GREATER NOIDA

Focus Areas

• Formulations • APIs • Ayush
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(Issued by Mr. Udaya Bhaskar, Director General, PHARMEXCIL)

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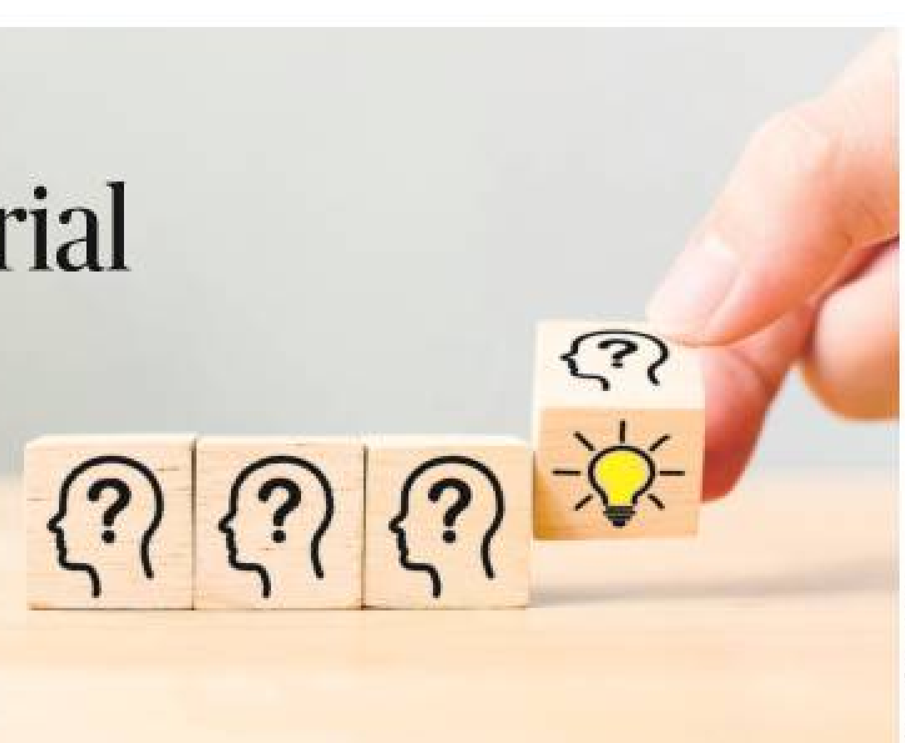
Inculcate an entrepreneurial mindset

Entrepreneurship education may help develop a problem-solving mindset and ensure that our students remain relevant, regardless of the kind of job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PRIYANK NARAYAN

Today's recruitment process has become a sort of Corporate Tinder. Hiring managers frantically, swiping left and right, hoping to find the right match with the required qualifications, skills, and behaviours... Getting started in the first job is a landmark moment for young professionals.

Still, the transition from student to professional is tumultuous and often tedious. Besides being thrown out of the cosy blanket of being a student, they must face the reality of navigating organisations and delivering results that count. This leaves recruiters expecting new hires to seamlessly assimilate into the labyrinth of corporate life with a seemingly different mindset.

Our education has trained us to think in silos, forcing us to solve problems through specialised knowledge rather than thinking beyond the comfort of our discipline.

The biggest challenge we face as educators, today, is that we are preparing our students for jobs that are changing every day and roles that don't yet exist. Numerous surveys have shown that more than 50% of graduates are not equipped with the skills to perform in their first job, and close to a third believe that their degree failed to provide them with future-ready skills.

Given this context, entrepreneurship education may help develop a problem-solving mindset to help young professionals thrive. 'Being entrepreneurial' is a valuable competency that can ensure our students remain relevant, regardless of the kind of job they have been entrusted with. This leg-up in the professional world can be facilitated.

Inter-and cross-disciplinary collaboration

An entrepreneurial mindset promotes cross-disciplinary collaboration and allows students to develop critical-thinking abilities when approaching a problem. This gives students and instructors numerous "real-world" possibilities for growth. This interdisciplinary mindset creates T-shaped learners who possess deep capabilities in a core function (the vertical part of the T) and broad capacities in diverse areas (the horizontal part of the T). Companies are angling towards investing in T-shaped professionals to allow the horizontal movement of new employees as they adapt to the constantly evolving business landscape.

This makes the exposure to every discipline – from basic statistics to political philosophy – just as significant as the depth of knowledge in any field. An interdisciplinary perspective encourages students to structure problem-solving in different areas and allows them to identify what needs to change in their approach to problem-solving.

Recognising relevance

When young adults are given the opportunity and space to think critically, they also develop the ability to choose what information is relevant.

This has become increasingly important in the age where 'WhatsApp University' is the primary source of knowledge.

University of Washington professors Carl Bergstrom and Jevin West offer a course, which trains students to identify and call out misinformation. "We wanted to show our students that you don't have to have a Master's degree in Statistics or Computer Science to be able to call b******* on this stuff," says Bergstrom to *Forbes*. They emphasise that statistical correlations are valuable tools, but students should ask whether the relationships make sense. An alert student can connect the right dots in their story when constructing their arguments amidst the plethora of data and opinions. Ultimately it is about being a meaningful curator.

Getting things done

One of the hallmarks of being entrepreneurial is not waiting for the perfect set of resources. Scholars of entrepreneurial studies refer to it as "effectuation". Effectuation has been a part of how we think from time immemorial; the French called it bricolage, the Indians call it *jugaad*, and contemporary business authors refer to it as the Art of Getting Things Done. While many universities offer courses in leadership, a course on 'excelling at execution' is not seen as often. This leaves many students believing that their first job will be all about leadership, little about followership and delivering on the ground as a creative problem solver. Making the best of the means at hand is a little *jugaad* that must be managed gracefully.

The world is changing faster than ever, and this requires young professionals to be learning equally swiftly. Inculcating an entrepreneurial mindset sparks the inclination to discover, evaluate and execute. As a society, we must reward and celebrate this spirit of problem-solving and exploration, as the curious will curate, connect and create.

The writer is the Head of Department, Entrepreneurship, Director, InfoEdge Centre for Entrepreneurship, Ashoka University, and founder of IndiaPreneurship.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Kotak Kanya Scholarship

An initiative by Kotak Education Foundation under the CSR Project on Education and Livelihood of Kotak Mahindra Group Companies to help meritorious girl students from underprivileged sections of society to pursue professional graduation courses.

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- Geo-Science and Engg.
- IDD in Computer Science & Engg. and Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Admission Process: Based on the JEE (Advanced) rank of the candidate.

How to apply: For more information on programme structure, eligibility and application process, visit Institute's website:
https://www.rgipt.ac.in/en/page/BTech

Note: Admission will be based on the IIT JEE (Advanced) rank of the applicant. If seats remain vacant in any of the branch after completion of seat allotment in regular rounds, then those vacant seats will be filled through JEE (Mains) Rank.

Last date of application (First Round): 27-09-2022

Karnataka being turned into a communal laboratory: Pinarayi

Sangh Parivar is in the process of saffronising next generation, says Kerala Chief Minister

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Expressing concern that communal forces are bringing a bad name to Karnataka as the society is being communalised, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Sunday said that Karnataka is being turned into a communal laboratory like some North Indian States.

"It is dangerous to the State. Sangh Parivar is bringing different agendas to the forefront and is in the process of saffronising the next generation through saffronisation of textbooks. Progressive thinkers have been sacrificed in the textbook revision process," Mr. Vijayan, speaking extensively on communal forces in Karnataka and the country, said at the State-level convention of Communist Party of India (Marxist) in Bagepalli, about 100 km from here.

Mr. Vijayan earlier met Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai in Bengaluru to discuss rail connectivity issues between the two States. "History is being changed. Sri Narayana Guru and Periyar Ramaswamy have been dropped while Bhagat Singh has been sidelined. Sara Abubacker's writing has been dropped. RSS ideologue Hedgewar has been added. Why are such things being done? Minds are being communalised," he alleged.

Without naming any party, Mr. Vijayan said that though some political parties are claiming to be fighting for the welfare of minorities, they are actually helping Sangh Parivar's agenda. Stating that only a people's movement can bring down communal polarisation, he said that political organisations such as PFI, SDPI and Jamaat-e-Islam are only strengthening communal polarisation. "It should be understood that minority communalism cannot defeat majoritarian communalism. Otherwise, it will lead to clashes and divide people."

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan addressing a State-level convention of Communist Party of India (Marxist) at Bagepalli on Sunday. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"Since 2014 after BJP came to power at the Centre, attacks on minorities have only increased, and right to food and clothing has been trampled upon by the prescription of Sangh Parivar," he said. Egg in midday meals for children has been opposed by the Sangha Parivar. Unfortunately, he said, Karnataka has been experiencing hijab issues in Coastal Karnataka. "Communal polarisation is the focus and those in power are promoting it. In Udupi and Mangaluru, Muslim girls are being denied education in the name of hijab. This is part of Sangh Parivar's nation-wide agenda. Currently, there is politics of hate," he said.

The Kerala Chief Minister said that democratic traditions and ideologies are being stifled and those who are creating awareness about communal forces are being attacked. "Those speaking up for freedom and liberty are being branded as anti-nationals. Writers M.M. Kalburgi and Gowri Lankesh were shot dead. Writers K.S. Bhagawan, Huchangi Prasad, Chethan Thirthahalli and Yogesh Master have faced threats. RTI activist Vinayak Baliga has been murdered. It is a shame that the BJP sent air ticket to Pakistan to Jnanpith awardee U.R. Ananthamurthy after 2014 election and even celebrated his death."

The Kerala Chief Minister said that fake nationalism is being peddled to destroy democratic ideals, culture, language and communities by those who did not play any role in freedom movement.

Mr. Vijayan said that Congress has lost the strength to fight BJP's communal politics, and that both BJP and Congress are the same in Kerala. He also said that Congress and BJP have the same agenda on economic front since Congress started liberalisation in 1991 and the Narendra Modi government has only hastened the process. He said that the Left parties could provide leadership to take on the BJP.

CM's announcement on allocation for KKRDB just eyewash, charges Priyank

Bommai had promised ₹5,000 cr. for the board

KARNATAKA BUREAU
KALABURAGI/BENGALURU

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai's announcement of increasing the allocation for Kalyana Karnataka Region Development Board (KKRDB) from the present ₹3,000 crore to ₹5,000 crore has triggered a political tussle with the Opposition Congress describing this as just eyewash and a strategy to impress voters ahead of the Assembly polls.

Addressing a press conference in Kalaburagi on Sunday, Priyank Kharge, spokesperson of Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee, said it was a promise that was made not for implementation but for impressing voters.

"After participating in Kalyana Karnataka Utsav Day in Kalaburagi on Saturday, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai announced that he would increase the budgetary allocations to KKRDB to ₹5000 crore. He made this announcement clearly keeping the Assembly elections in mind. Making tall promises ahead of elections and going back on them is their [BJP's] habit," Mr. Priyank said.

KPCC spokesperson Priyank Kharge addressing a media conference in Kalaburagi on Sunday. • ARUN KULKARNI

Referring to Mr. Bommai's previous promise of increasing the special grants to KKRDB from ₹1,500 crore to ₹3000 crore, Mr. Priyank said that the government had released only ₹1,500 crore to the KKRDB head account and the remaining ₹1,500 crore was diverted from SDP grants to aspirational taluks' initiatives. "The BJP legislators in the region are already celebrating as they are thinking of misappropriating 40% of the funds in the form of commission," he said.

Meanwhile, the Chief Minister slammed Mr. Priyank and accused him of not being interested in development of Kalyana Karnataka region. "I do not know why Mr. Kharge is opposing the announcement instead of welcoming it. It seems that he is not interested in development of the region," he told reporters here on Sunday. He said that instead of welcoming the big announcement, Mr. Kharge has opposed it, which gives an impression that he wants the region to remain backward. "Everyone should work together to overcome backwardness of the region and should not indulge in politics."

On the demand of Congress for Health Minister K. Sudhakar to resign taking moral responsibility for the deaths at Vijaynagar Institute of Medical Science, Mr. Bommai said 80 persons had died when doctors went on strike for five days protesting against the Karnataka Private Doctor's Bill. "Did the then Health Minister resign?" he asked.

Allocation of funds for free power to SC/STs will start this month: CM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Sunday reiterated that the government was not withdrawing the scheme of offering 75 units of power free of cost to the poor Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes families in the State.

"We have not withdrawn the scheme of providing 75 units of free power to poor SC/ST families in the State. Instead, the scheme will be streamlined and money for the scheme will be allocated from this month only," Mr. Bommai said addressing the gathering of Karnataka Bhovi Welfare Association's Golden Jubilee celebrations and distribution of the 43rd Prathibha Puraskar.

Stating that time has changed and children need not follow caste vocation for livelihood, Mr. Bommai said gaining knowledge will help community members to excel in all fields. "Marks scored by students are promising and they need to be encouraged."

He said that the government was committed to removing all obstacles for development of the Bhovi community, and pointed out that scholarship has been extended to students and hostels are being built. "This year, 100 new hostels are being built in the name of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar along with five mega hostels that can accommodate 1,000 students. The government is also financially supporting students who wish to pursue higher studies abroad," he said. He also recollected an excellent relationship that his family has with many Bhovi leaders across the State.

HDK seeks Sudhakar's resignation over deaths at VIMS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Former Chief Minister and Janata Dal (Secular) leader H.D. Kumaraswamy on Sunday urged Health Minister K. Sudhakar to resign taking moral responsibility for the deaths at Vijayanagar Institute of Medical Sciences (VIMS) in Ballari.

'Not visited'

Mr. Kumaraswamy said that the Minister has not gone there and has only promised to send an inquiry team.

"How much time does it require for people to know the truth. Though advertisements are being given about improvement of health infrastructure, VIMS incident has exposed the chinks. With what guarantee can people go to government facilities?" The Minister should resign owning moral responsibility," the former Chief Minister added.

CORRIDORS OF POWER

Unending reply

While Ministers most often face the ire of legislators for giving inadequate answers to their questions, Labour Minister Shivaram Hebbar

(*in picture*) in the Legislative Council last week tired them out with an answer that never seemed to end. Probably egged on by Congress Deputy Leader K. Govindaraju's appreciation for an exhaustive reply to the question he posed on behalf of his party colleague Saleem Ahmed, the Minister went on and on with the department's achievements over the past two years. Despite multiple nudges by Chairman Raghunath Rao Malkapure, who reminded the Minister that it was Question Hour and answers should be precise, the Labour Minister did not stop. Mr. Govindaraju perhaps regretted his words of praise and remarked that the Minister's reply looked more like an election speech. Janata Dal (Secular) member S.L. Bhoje Gowda suggested no one should henceforth pose the Labour Minister any questions to save themselves from such long speeches. Unmindful of all this, the Minister continued for some more time, even after Chairman called BJP member D.S. Arun to ask his question next.

Health matters

It was a picture of contrast at the Legislative Assembly. There was none to reply to Rupali Naik, BJP MLA, representing Karwar, when she posed a question related to the proposal on sanctioning of a super specialty hospital to Uttara Kannada district, which was pending for many years.

When Speaker Vishweshwar Hegde Kageri informed the MLA that Minister K. Sudhakar (*in picture*) was absent and admitted to a hospital following illness, Ms. Naik shot back, "We will be sick by the time the Minister attends the session."

As the MLA persistently

demanded an answer from the government, Mr. Kageri asked one of the Ministers to reply on the matter. As no Minister came forward to reply, the question was postponed and Mr. Kageri promised her time next week. Observing that some Ministers are not taking Question Hour seriously, the Speaker told them to treat it as priority by skipping all other functions.

No festival for police

Now is the season of festivals and feasts. While the rest of the world might be enjoying them as holidays, they are

days of long working hours and travel to different locations for the police.

Ahead of the Ganesha festival, a senior police officer in Hassan sent a message to the entire staff that nobody would take leave or off for the next 15-20 days, except in case of extreme emergency situations. "They miss the feasts at home and have to be content with the food pockets we arrange at workplace. Besides that, we keep them moving to different locations, considering the schedule of Ganesha processions," said a senior police officer.

"As elections are approaching, we are cautious. We have to ensure that neither action nor inaction by the police becomes an election issue," the officer added. This time, the police installed CCTV cameras and hired videographers to capture processions for good measure.

SHARATH S. SRIVATSA
NAGESH PRABHU
SATHISH G.T.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

C.ANNAMALAI (90) , Retired Foreman-Galley Press,The Hindu,Chennai passed away on 18-09-2022. Address: D 36, 17th Cross Street, Hindu Colony, Nanganallur, Chennai-600061.Contact number: 9710611079

LC Veeraraghavan, Age 87 Retd Dy. Chief Engineer (Construction) Southern Railways. Attained Acharyan Thiruvadi on 18th Sept 2022 at Chennai. Cremation at Besant Nagar on 19th Sept 2022. Ph:+91 9845062303 & 9500047200

SAD DEMISE

Shobha Warrier (Aged 58 Yrs) passed away in Bangalore on 16th Sept 22.
In grief :
Rugmini Warrier (Mother- 080-41534594)
KR Warrier (Husband- 9444454715)
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Sudha Warrier (Sister- 9731218409)

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NOTICE is hereby given that the 16th Annual General Meeting of the share holders, Members of the society will be held on Saturday,Sep 24,2022 at 10.00am.(IST) at Wings Convention Center No 96, Chennai 600095, Near Flyover Poonamallee High Road, Vanagaram, Outlet Ring Road.
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Date: 17.09.2022
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For BLMSHCS
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PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME
I, V SANDEEP S/o Late. Venkat Mohan Raju, residing at No.51, 3rd Main Anandnagar Bagalur Cross IAF Post Yelahanka Bangalore-560063, Karnataka, have changed my name to V Sandeep Raju vide Affidavit Dated.16th September 2022 before Notary S.R. Ravi Kumar, Bangalore-560040

LEGAL NOTICE
IN THE COURT OF THE HON'BLE PRINCIPAL SENIOR CIVIL JUDGE AT MANCHERIAL
IA No. 286 of 2022
IN
H.M.O.P. No. 05 of 2019
Between:
Marapally Raghuram @ Raghupathi ..Petitioner/Respondent
AND
Siddanki Aruna ..Respondent / Petitioner
To
Siddanki Aruna, W/o. Marapally Raghuram @ Raghupathi, Aged: 32 Yrs, Occ: Certified Medical Coder at XL Health Corporation India Ltd., Banglore, R/o. H.No. 16-158, Rk-6 Huts area, Srirampur Rlm Naspur, Dist: Mancherial.
Whereas the above named petitioner/respondent has instituted a petition for setting aside the exparte decree passed against him. The said petition stands posted on: 27-09-2022 for your appearance and answer.
Therefore you are hereby directed to present either in person or through advocate, at about 10-30 A.M. before the above said Honourable Court to answer the claim. Failing which, the matter will be heard and determined in your absence as set ex-parte.
"By order of the Hon'ble Court"
Date: 16-9-2022
Place: Mancherial
Sd/-, CHITLA RAMESH & K.GANGAIAH
Advocates, Mancherial. Cell: 9848066788

LEGAL NOTICE
IN THE COURT OF THE 1ST ADD CHIEF METROPOLITAN MAGISTRATE AT BANGALORE
C.MIS No. 5309 / 2022
BETWEEN : Shivananda .V S/o Late Veeralingappa, Age about 52 years, Rid. No 136, 7th Main Road, 3rd Cross, Bhuvaneshwari nagar, T. Dasarahalli, Bangalore - 560 057. ...PETITIONER
AND: 1) S H P, The Registrar of Birth & Deaths Office of the Commissioner, Bangalore.
...RESPONDENT
PUBLIC NOTICE
The above named petitioner Shivananda .V S/o Veera Lingappa has applied for Death Certificate of Father Veera Lingappa died on 19-06-2021, in the above mentioned court. The Court fixed the hearing date on 10.10.2022 morning 11.00 AM. Whoever has any objection regarding issue of Death Certificate of the above petitioner Father Veera Lingappa may appear before this Hon'ble Court in person or by pleader.
Given under my hand and seal of the court this the 14.09.2022.
By Order of the Court, Sheristedar,
1st Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Court, Bangalore.
Sri Hanumanthakumara, Advocate
Plot No.3, First Floor, No. 122, Margosa Road, Between 10th and 11th cross, Malleswaram, Bangalore - 560 003.

IN THE COURT OF THE 26TH ADDL. CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT MAYO HALL, BANGALORE (CCH-20)
O.S. No. 25005/2018
Between
ICICI Bank Limited
having its Registered Office at ICICI Tower, Near Chakli Circle, Old Padra Road, Vadodara-390007 And its Branch Office at Mythri Centre, No. 4/10, Hosur Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore- 560068 ...Plaintiff
And
Munseef Baig ...Defendant
NOTICE TO DEFENDANT
To,
Munseef Baig,
Aged about 30 years, S/o. Basheer Baig, R/a. No. 256, 2nd Cross, Matheen Medical Road, Near Aswad Clinic, Mangammana Palya, Bangalore- 560068
...Defendant
Whereas the Plaintiff has instituted the above proceedings against you seeking recovery of Rs. 4,15,886.93/- as on 20/06/2017 along with interest at 24% p.a. and other consequential reliefs. You are hereby summoned to appear before the Court of City Civil & Sessions Judge, Mayo Hall Unit, Bangalore [CCH-20] in person or by a pleader duly instructed and able to answer all material questions relating to the above proceedings on 22/10/2022 at 11 A.M. Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day mentioned before, the suit will be heard and determined in your absence.
Given under my hand and the seal of this court, this 14th day of September, 2022.
Deputy Registrar
City Civil Court,
Mayo Hall Unit, Bangalore
Advocate for Plaintiff
Shiva & Co. Advocates,
No.109, Commerce House,
9/1, Cunningham Road,
Bangalore- 560052

IN THE COURT OF THE 26TH ADDL.___ CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT MAYO HALL, BANGALORE (CCH-20)
O.S. No. 25688/2020
Between
ICICI Bank Limited
having its Registered Office at ICICI Tower, Near Chakli Circle, Old Padra Road, Vadodara-390007 And its Branch Office at Mythri Centre, No. 4/10, Hosur Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore- 560068 ...Plaintiff
And
Naseema Banu N ...Defendant
NOTICE TO DEFENDANT
To,
Naseema Banu N,
Aged about 36 years, D/W/o. Nisar Ahmed, R/a. 289, 5th Main, Marenahalli Tank Bund Road, Jayanagar, Bangalore-560041 ...Defendant
Whereas the Plaintiff has instituted the above proceedings against you seeking recovery of Rs. 2,68,094.39/- as on 07/02/2020 along with interest at 24% p.a. and other consequential reliefs. You are hereby summoned to appear before the Court of City Civil & Sessions Judge, Mayo Hal Unit, Bangalore [CCH-20] in person or by a pleader duly instructed and able to answer all material questions relating to the above proceedings on 05/11/2022 at 11 A.M. Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day mentioned before, the suit will be heard and determined in your absence.
Given under my hand and the seal of this court, this 15th day of September 2022.
Deputy Registrar
City Civil Court,
Mayo Hall Unit, Bangalore
Advocate for Plaintiff
Shiva & Co. Advocates,
No.109, Commerce House,
9/1, Cunningham Road,
Bangalore- 560052

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IN BRIEF

'Destabilising TS govt. next on BJP agenda'

HYDERABAD

CPI (M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury has said that Telangana was the next target of the BJP to destabilise the State government by buying MLAs of the ruling party. After accomplishing the goal at Karnataka, the BJP had set its eyes on Telangana like it did in all States, Mr. Yechury told a media conference here on Sunday. He called for keeping the BJP away from wielding political power and government control.

BJP to hold 5,000 meetings in A.P.

VISAKHAPATNAM

BJP Andhra Pradesh president Somu Veerraju has said that the party will organise 5,000 meetings all over the State, to highlight the failures of the previous Telugu Desam Party (TDP) government and the present YSR Congress Party government, with the objective of bringing the BJP to power in the 2024 elections. The beneficiaries of various Central government schemes would be told about the funds being extended by the Union govt for their welfare, Mr. Veerraju said.

Kerala auto driver wins ₹25-crore jackpot

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

A 32-year-old autorickshaw driver from Thiruvananthapuram on Sunday won the whopping ₹25 crore first prize of the *Thiruvonam* bumper lottery run by the State Lotteries Department. Lady luck smiled on B. Anoop, a resident of Sreevaraham, who had purchased the winning ticket (no. TJ 750605) on Saturday evening.

The ticket was among the last on sale at the Bhagavathy Lottery Agencies, Pazhavangadi.

Will Priyanka participate in Bharat Jodo yatra in Mysuru?

Shivakumar says a 'tall woman leader' of the Congress is likely to take part

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MYSURU

Will Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra participate in the Bharat Jodo yatra led by party leader Rahul Gandhi in Mysuru region?

While addressing the gathering at a meeting in Mysuru on Sunday to chalk out preparations for the yatra, Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) chief D.K. Shivakumar said a tall woman leader of the party may participate in the padayatra in this stretch. "However, I don't have the confirmation yet," he said.

Mr. Shivakumar, who did not reveal the name of the leader from the party, said the tall leader had not visited the State so far.

He made the revelation while asking Congresswomen to turn up for the padayatra in large numbers by mobilising members of Stree Shaktis and other women's groups.

At least 1,000 women should be participating in the Bharat Jodo yatra each day, he said.

Meanwhile, Leader of the Opposition Siddaramaiah and Mr. Shivakumar called upon party leaders of Mysuru to mobilise large numbers to walk alongside Mr. Gandhi when his yatra passes through the region.

Former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar at a meeting of party leaders and workers in Mysuru. • M.A. SRIRAM

While Mr. Siddaramaiah asked legislators from the region to bring at least 5,000 people each on the dates assigned to them by the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee, Mr. Shivakumar raised the number to 15,000 people each for the legislators from Mysuru district and also asked the party's district unit chiefs to replace leaders of party's various units and cells if they failed to participate and bring their supporters to participate in the event.

While pointing out that it was the responsibility of the party leaders, including legislators and MPs, to ferry their supporters to the padayatra and back, Mr. Siddaramaiah assured the leaders that they stand to gain politically with their participation in the Bharat Jodo yatra. He referred to the upcoming elections to the Legislative Assembly and said the party leaders, who involve themselves more in the padayatra, will benefit as much politically.

Mr. Siddaramaiah and Mr. Shivakumar were addressing a gathering of party leaders and workers from Mysuru district convened to chalk out the preparations for the yatra, which will enter Karnataka at border district Chamarajanagar's Gundlupet on September 30 before entering Mysuru district's Nanjangud on October 1.

On October 2, Gandhi Jayanti day, the AICC leader is scheduled to visit the Khadi and Gramudyog Centre at Badanavalu in Nanjangud, which was visited by Mahatma Gandhi in 1927.

He will later visit a temple in Nanjangud before resuming his padayatra from Kadakola and reach Mysuru for an overnight halt.

He will resume padayatra from Mysuru on October 3 towards Srirangapatna in Mandya district.

62-year-old man held for sexual assault

STAFF REPORTER
COIMBATORE

A 62-year-old man running a grocery was arrested from a village near Anamalai off Pollachi in Coimbatore district on Sunday on the charge of sexual abuse of minors.

His interrogation and preliminary investigation revealed that he had been a sexual predator for a few years and had allegedly sexually assaulted 15 girls aged nine to 13.

He was arrested by the police after a 13-year-old girl told her headmistress that she was sexually assaulted by him when she visited his shop. The girl opened up when the headmistress conducted an awareness class on sexual abuse for the girl students.

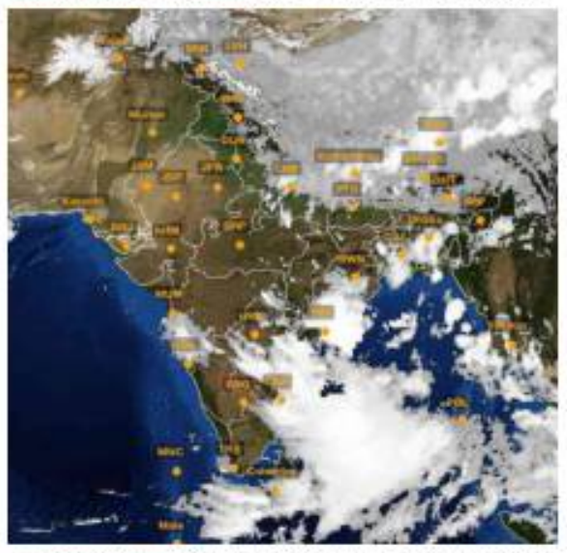
Fourteen other girls also told her that the grocer had sexually assaulted and harassed them over four years.

The headmistress lodged a complaint with the all-woman police station at Pollachi on Saturday.

The shopkeeper has been booked. The police were checking the actual number of students who were allegedly sexually assaulted by the accused.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 16.00 HRS)

Forecast for Monday: Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning at isolated places likely over Uttarakhand, East Uttar Pradesh, Vidarbha, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Bihar, West Bengal, Sikkim, Assam, Meghalaya, Madhya Maharashtra, Marathawada, Coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala and Mahe

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	–	33.9	26.0	Kozhikode	–	33.2	25.0
Ahmedabad	–	34.3	25.7	Kurnool	–	33.5	23.7
Aizawl	–	27.2	22.1	Lucknow	–	30.1	25.7
Allahabad	–	31.8	26.2	Madurai	–	36.8	25.0
Bengaluru	–	29.5	20.6	Mangaluru	21.1	28.9	23.8
Bhopal	–	29.8	22.0	Mumbai	16.0	30.2	24.2
Bhubaneswar	4.0	35.1	25.1	Mysuru	–	30.9	21.0
Chandigarh	–	34.1	24.8	New Delhi	–	34.0	23.2
Chennai	–	37.5	27.1	Patna	0.5	31.0	26.0
Coimbatore	–	33.4	23.0	Port Blair	12.0	27.2	23.8
Dehradun	3.0	28.2	20.0	Puducherry	–	34.8	25.8
Gangtok	0.5	21.4	17.3	Pune	2.8	27.9	21.6
Goa	15.0	31.0	24.7	Raipur	–	28.2	25.0
Guwahati	–	35.6	26.6	Ranchi	4.0	30.2	23.4
Hubballi	–	28.0	20.0	Shillong	0.1	23.3	17.8
Hyderabad	–	31.6	22.2	Shimla	1.0	22.4	14.8
Imphal	–	31.1	20.5	Srinagar	–	28.9	12.4
Jaipur	–	34.4	25.2	Thiruvananthapuram	–	31.9	24.1
Kochi	0.8	29.8	24.8	Tiruchi	–	36.1	26.5
Kohima	1.0	25.2	15.4	Vijayawada	–	34.6	26.2
Kolkata	3.0	31.9	25.6	Visakhapatnam	–	32.6	28.4

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing — Yesterday

CITIES	SO₂	NO₂	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	–	46	20	43	79	
Bengaluru	7	26	36	36	123	
Chennai	3	27	99	61	56	
Delhi	33	54	–	91	252	
Hyderabad	7	2	136	26	45	
Kolkata	3	20	26	30	56	
Lucknow	5	88	38	34	45	
Mumbai	–	101	39	10	9	
Pune	–	25	61	–	–	
Visakhapatnam	–	41	33	54	89	

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Bhiwadi, Rajasthan recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 182 indicating a moderate level of pollution. In contrast, Madikeri, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 19

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO₂: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO₂: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Kerala Governor hints at legal action over plot to attack him

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Governor Arif Mohammed Khan seemed to be on a collision course with the Kerala State government. Mr. Khan hinted that he would seek legal recourse for the police reluctance to investigate the foiled "attack" against him at the Indian History Congress venue in Kannur in 2019.

When asked by reporters whether he would petition the Centre, Mr. Khan indicated that he might hold a "revelatory" press conference at the Raj Bhavan soon.

Arif Mohammed Khan

Mr. Khan seemed to suggest that Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan had restrained the police from prosecuting the offenders.

"Any attempt to interrupt, restrain, overawe or harm the President or Governor is a cognisable offence under Section 124 of the Constitution. If some higher authority prevents the police from taking legal action, was that person also part of the conspiracy," Mr. Khan asked.

Mr. Khan said he would release the letters written to him by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan. The Governor dropped sufficient hints that he would not sign the University Law (Amendment) Act, 2022, for he felt it infringed on the independence of universities. He also aired scepticism about the Kerala Lok Ayukta (Amendment) Act, 2022. The Congress and the BJP urged the Governor not to sign the legislation.

Communist Party of India (Marxist) [CPI(M)] State secretariat member A.K. Balan and Communist Party of India (CPI) State secretary Kanam Rajendran seemed to harden their stance against the Governor.

Finishing touches

Deft hands: Artisans making idols of Goddess Kanaka Durga ahead of the Dasara festivities in Vijayawada on Sunday. • K.V.S. GIRI

Rahul flays BJP over soaring prices

'Impossible for the common man to fulfil their dreams in present-day India'

STAFF REPORTER
ALAPPUZHA

Attacking the BJP-led Union government over unemployment and soaring prices, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday in Kerala said that it was impossible for the common man to fulfil their dreams in present-day India.

He was speaking at a public meeting as part of the Bharat Jodo Yatra at Kuravanthodu near Alappuzha. Mr. Gandhi said the government was only interested in helping a few crony capitalists.

"The country is facing big issues in the form of unemployment, high prices, environmental problems, and poor roads and hospitals. These are big complicated problems. But the Prime Minister gives the impression that all these issues can be solved in seconds. Unlike him, I don't like to lie to people. We are unable to provide our youngsters with jobs. It is something this country should be ashamed of. There is too much inequality in India. We cannot allow a few people to own everything while millions cannot eat," he said. The Congress leader said the BJP and RSS were dividing the country along religious, caste and language lines.

Home call: Rahul Gandhi visiting a house during the Bharat Jodo Yatra in Alappuzha district on Sunday. • PTI

"India today is full of anger and hatred where brother is fighting brother. A family that fights with itself cannot achieve anything. It can have no vision for its future. It cannot progress. A home in which a brother fights with his brother or a sister fights with her mother cannot be successful. And, that is what the BJP is attempting to do to our country. They do it to benefit a few rich and powerful people. The irony is that you have a country with the highest levels of unemployment and highest prices and the same country has the richest people in the world. On the other side, the government hardly creates an environment to allow others to grow and fulfil their dreams," Mr. Gandhi said, adding that harmony was required for progress.

On the poor condition of roads in the State, Mr. Gandhi said no one's back could survive driving on Kerala roads. "It is not purely a criticism of the Left Democratic Front government. The UDF also built roads when in power. But there is a serious problem with standards about roads in Kerala," the Congress leader said.

Regional languages are 'Bharat Basha' under NEP: Pradhan

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THANJAVUR

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 is a roadmap for global citizenship, which recognises all Indian languages as national languages with a view to foster innovation and research, Union Minister for Education, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan said here on Sunday.

The NEP 2020 recognises the positive impact of one's mother tongue on fostering critical thinking and innovation. Tamil and all regional languages in the country have been recognised as 'Bharat Basha' for infusing clarity of thought into the learning process, he said, addressing the 36th Convocation of SASTRA Deemed to be University.

The emphasis on employability in the policy reflects in the provisions made for bridging the gap between education and skills, the Minister said, advocating entrepreneurship. Digital leadership of India, as delineated in the Blueprint for Amrit Kaal (vision for the next 25 years), will take place through the 5G connectivity planned for six lakh villages by 2023, benefiting 30 crore households, the Minister said.

Initiatives were in place for harnessing and integrating knowledge in Indian knowledge systems in the forms of folklore and old literature. India has the knowledge capability to find sustainable solutions at a global level, Mr. Pradhan said.

The Minister conferred Doctor of Science (*honoris causa*) on Krishaswami Alladi, Professor of Mathematics, University of Florida, and Chairman of SASTRA-Ramanujan Prize Committee, and Doctor of Letters (*honoris causa*) on Chamu Krishna Shastry, Chairman, Bharatiya Basha Samiti.

R. Sethuraman, chancellor of the deemed university, conferred the degrees and administered a pledge to the graduands. Over 4,100 students, including 72 Ph.D candidates, received their degrees. Minister of State for Fisheries L. Murugan also participated.

Peacocks find home in a tribal village

The family collects peahen eggs to rear them in their hamlet in Andhra Pradesh

T. APPALA NAIDU
GUDISA (ASR DISTRICT)

In her 20s, Konda Reddi tribal woman Sadala Karanamma has a unique responsibility compared to any other woman among the 25 families inhabiting the only grassland in Andhra Pradesh. In the Godavari region, the Konda Reddi tribe is the only Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG).

Ms. Karanamma is a mother of two children and spends most of her days in the forest attending farm work. Last summer, her family entrusted her with a task she never imagined. "Since last summer, I have been tasked with taking care of two peacocks. Slowly, my bond with the peacocks has strengthened. For me, they are like my own children," says Ms. Karanamma.

Fun and frolic: A tribal child with a peacock at Gudisa hamlet in Maredumilli forest cover in A.P. • T. APPALA NAIDU

Last summer, Ms. Karanamma's in-laws found three peahen eggs in the broomstick field in the grassland of Maredumill forest cover in Alluri Sitarama Raju district.

"We have found three eggs which have been hatched in the field itself. Of the three chicks, one died and two have survived, which we have brought home," said Kondla Samireddy of Gudisa hamlet. Mr. Samireddy is a relative of Ms. Karanamma and is involved in the collection of the eggs and conservation of the peacocks.

This was the first attempt by the Konda Reddi tribe to domesticate the peacock whose population is thriving in the grassland ecosystem. Two peacocks are seen moving freely in the hamlet and staying atop an old tree adjacent to Ms. Karanamma's house.

The two peacocks have also started accompanying the villagers to the fields. The villagers have claimed that the purpose of rearing the peacocks is purely for 'entertainment' for as long as they stay with them.

CPI (Maoist) to celebrate anniversary

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BHADRADRI KOTHAGUDEM

The Bhadradri Kothagudem-Alluri Sitarama Raju (BK-ASR) division committee of CPI (Maoist) has given a call for a week-long celebration of the 18th anniversary of its formation across the division from September 21 to 27.

In a statement, the banned outfit's BK-ASR division secretary Azad said that as many as 124 Maoist cadres shed their blood as part of the revolutionary struggle for tribals' rights in the last one year.

Most people are living in abject poverty with no access to proper basic ammenities and livelihood opportunities, he alleged.

Era of war is over

India did well to caution Vladimir Putin over the Ukraine war

Compared to its relatively low-key past, the Summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation's (SCO) Council of Heads of State in Samarkand took place in the cross-hairs of international attention. Apart from the SCO's new agreements on regional engagement, discussions among the eight members including four Central Asian states (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan) focused on inducting Iran as a member, broadening the SCO dialogue partners to West and South Asia, and on trade, tourism and counter-terrorism in the region. However, more focus was on the bilateral meetings on the sidelines, as this was the first such major conference that Russian President Vladimir Putin attended since the Ukraine war, as well as part of the first visit abroad by Chinese President Xi Jinping since the COVID-19 pandemic and Taiwan tensions. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's attendance was equally meaningful, given that it was the first time he met Mr. Putin since the war, and Mr. Xi since the standoff at the LAC, in 2020. This was also the first time he came face to face with Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, and speculation was rife that he would hold meetings with India's adversaries. While the meetings with Mr. Sharif or Mr. Xi did not materialise, western capitals focused on his Putin meeting. Mr. Modi's opening comment to Mr. Putin, that the "era of war" has ended, has been read as an "admonition" of Russia's war in Ukraine. However, it would be wrong to read Mr. Modi's engagement with Mr. Putin as any kind of "public shaming", but rather an expression of the concern over the war, something that Mr. Putin said he understands. A day before, Mr. Putin had also said to Mr. Xi that he understood China's concerns, indicating Russia's realisation of the need to effect a ceasefire and dialogue.

India now comes into prominence as Chair of the SCO, and is making preparations for next year's SCO summit ahead of the G-20 summit in New Delhi. India needs to ensure the participation of all SCO members including China and Pakistan, despite the tensions, which will entail some diplomatic elbow grease by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar in the next few months, beginning this week at the UN General Assembly. India's pitch to the SCO for connectivity with the Eurasian region hinges on its development of Chabahar port through Iran and traversing U.S. sanctions, while still competing with the China-Pakistan backed transit routes through Gwadar. On terrorism, India will have to ensure the SCO walks the talk on building a new consolidated list of terrorist groups, an area where it is frequently thwarted by China. Meanwhile, New Delhi will also have to balance its ties, keeping western partners in the Quad and other groupings reassured, especially as the polarisation between the U.S.-EU coalition and a Russia-China-led combine continues to grow.

Crisis in Caucasus

Armenia and Azerbaijan must work out a lasting ceasefire

The violent border clashes between Armenia and Azerbaijan have raised fears of another war in the Caucasus. The countries had fought a disastrous weeks-long war in 2020 over the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region in which Azerbaijan made gains before Russia forced a ceasefire. Tensions remained with the occasional flare-ups, but Tuesday's clashes were the deadliest since 2020. Armenia and Azerbaijan have accused each other of provocation, but the fighting, as per initial reports, took place on the Armenian side and Armenia took heavier casualties. It may not be a coincidence that the crisis broke out at a time when Russia, Armenia's security ally, has been struggling to hold its gains in Ukraine. Armenia is a member of the Russia-led Collective Security Treaty Organisation, whose NATO-like charter stipulates that an attack against one member could be treated as an attack against all. Armenia had turned to Russia for help, but Moscow's response was rather cautious – it called for de-escalation and claimed that it had brokered another ceasefire.

The dispute over Nagorno-Karabakh goes back to the pre-Soviet era. When the Soviet Union was formed, the Armenian majority enclave became part of the Azerbaijan Soviet Republic. When the Soviet Union collapsed and Armenia and Azerbaijan became independent republics, the clashes resurfaced. Armenian rebels in Nagorno-Karabakh fought off the Azeri forces and joined Armenia. But Azerbaijan never gave up its claims; nor did the two countries reach any peace agreement over the enclave. Unlike in the 1990s, Azerbaijan now looks economically and politically stronger. In the 2020 conflict, it got military and diplomatic assistance from Turkey while Russia was reluctant to get dragged into the conflict on behalf of Armenia. Now, Russia's ability to project power in its neighbourhood appears to be further limited on account of Ukraine. On the other side, gas-rich Azerbaijan, which still has the backing of Turkey, is being courted by the EU for increased gas supplies. These regional developments seem to have emboldened Azerbaijan. But its ambition could be costly for everyone. Russia will find it difficult to retain its influence in Central Asia and Caucasus if it continues to ignore Armenia. At the same time, getting dragged into another battlefront would be challenging. A conflict in the Caucasus would further destabilise the global energy markets, hurting all economies, particularly energy-starved Europe. For Turkey, which is trying to balance between Russia and the West over Ukraine, another war in its neighbourhood would further complicate its foreign policy choices. The last thing the world needs now is another war. So, all sides should enforce a lasting ceasefire between Armenia and Azerbaijan and ensure calm in the troubled mountains of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Geopolitics without geoeconomics, a fool's errand

India's current policy of pursuing geopolitical ends without geoeconomic ballast is a regressive step

HAPPYMON JACOB

Over the past few years, New Delhi has developed a keen desire to be part of the geopolitical developments in the Indo-Pacific and has gone about it with great aplomb. It has managed to emerge as a major pivot of the global Indo-Pacific grand strategic imagination, avoided the temptations to militarise/securitise the Quad (Australia, Japan, India and the United States), and has ensured that the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) states do not feel uneasy by the ever-increasing balance of power articulations in the Indo-Pacific.

What New Delhi is missing

And yet, New Delhi's vision for the Indo-Pacific appears half-baked and unsustainable in the long term, given the inadequate attention New Delhi is prepared to give to the geoeconomic developments of the Indo-Pacific. Policymakers in New Delhi today do not appear to appreciate the inescapable linkages between geopolitics and geoeconomics. Put differently, even as contemporary great power behaviour has moved beyond the classical geopolitical imageries, thereby emphasising geoeconomics as the foundation of geopolitics, New Delhi continues to be stuck in the old binaries.

India's decision to take to the Indo-Pacific and Quad in a big way while unwilling to join two of the region's key multilateral trading agreements goes to show that geoeconomics and geopolitics are imagined and pursued parallelly in New Delhi, not as complimenting each other. The most recent example is India's refusal to join the trade pillar of the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) while deciding to join the three other pillars of the IPEF – supply chains, tax and anti-corruption, and clean energy.

India's move to stay out of IPEF, a U.S.-sponsored soft trade arrangement at best, comes two years after India walked out of the negotiations on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) which came to effect earlier this year. Both the agreements lay at the heart of the Indo-Pacific and could potentially shape the economic character of the broader Indo-Pacific region.

India's decision to stay out of the IPEF is surprising because it seems out of sync with the recent enthusiasm in New Delhi about foreign trade agreements. When the Narendra Modi government took office in 2014, it immediately began reviewing existing trade agreements and paused any new free trade negotiations, a policy that continued for close to seven years. Modi 1.0 showcased an unambiguous lack of policy interest in promoting external trade and engaging in free trade negotiations.

And then all of a sudden, in the wake of COVID-19, New Delhi began exhibiting a new enthusiasm to rethink the country's external trade policy. Modi 2.0 started warming up to free trade agreements (FTAs). For instance, India concluded an FTA with the United Arab Emirates earlier this year, signed Early Harvest Agreements with Australia and the United Kingdom, and several more agreements are being negotiated. However, the recent decision to stay out of the IPEF shows a clear policy direction in New Delhi: by not becoming a part of the IPEF and RCEP, and signing FTAs with individual states, New Delhi has made it clear that it favours bilateral agreements, and is not keen on multilateral, plurilateral and even soft agreements such as the IPEF.

A regressive step, China factor

There are several reasons why New Delhi's decision to stay out of various regional trading agreements is a regressive policy decision. For one, the absence of the world's fifth largest economy from various regional trading platforms will invariably boost China's geo-economic hegemony in Asia. Given the growing fear in India about the negative implications of China-India trade, it is important to have a nuanced view of this. For one, the fear in India of China dominating the Indian market is not entirely unreasonable. To be more precise, there is a fear in India that a deeper Sino-Indian economic partnership could be weaponised by Beijing for geopolitical purposes. And yet, the only viable option to deal with such a challenge is to prepare for and face the challenge, even if it means incurring costs in the short term, so as to eventually overcome the challenge.

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

The reality is that despite the military stand-off on the Line of Actual Control, India-China trade has only increased in the past year. Therefore, if it is not possible for India to avoid trading with China; it is better for India to deal with the issue sooner rather than later and in a comprehensive manner. Perhaps this is also an opportune time to do so. There is an attempt, however feeble, by countries such as the U.S. to economically decouple from China, and to create forums without China on board, the IPEF being one such example. In other words, India must not shy away from trading with China as part of multilateral arrangements while at the same time joining arrangements which have no Chinese presence.

The second reason why staying out of IPEF is a bad idea is because for India, it would be hard to integrate itself into the regional and global supply chains without being a part of important regional multilateral trading agreements.

Third, we have no option but to address some of the deeper challenges plaguing the investment and business environment in India. Consider the fact that even those firms that have left China, albeit not many, due to the so-called U.S. decoupling from China, have not turned up at India's doorstep. Most of them went to countries such as Vietnam thereby highlighting the fact that we need to get our house in order; joining some of these multilateral trading arrangements will force us to do precisely that.

Fourth, if India is indeed serious about its maritime grand strategy, which cannot be solely military in nature, it needs to get the states in the region to create economic stakes in India (something China has done cleverly and consistently) and vice-versa. More so, without creating economic stakes with the states of the region, India's 'Act East' policy will revert to its earlier avatar – 'Look East'. For sure, India does have an FTA with the ASEAN (which the Modi government has reservations about), but it is also important for India to become part of trading arrangements which have major non-regional states so as to become a major part of the region's supply chains.

Yet another impact of India's hesitation about joining regional multilateral trading arrangements is its potential regional economic isolation. The less India engages with the region economically, and the more China does so, and given the Sino-Indian rivalry, India might risk getting economically isolated in the broader region.

Contrary to conventional logic, it is possible that the more India is economically 'isolated' in the region, the more China would be able to weaponise trade against India during times of major bilateral standoffs, should they occur.

Missing Indo-Pacific moment

Let us get back to the argument about the inherent relationship between geoeconomics and geopolitics. The most important long-term consequence of New Delhi's decision not to join the RCEP or the IPEF is that India will miss out on the unfolding Indo-Pacific moment in a big way. The Indo-Pacific and the Quad are not military arrangements; India has been very clear about it. If they are not military arrangements, what are they? At the risk of oversimplification, they could be characterised as geoeconomic instruments which will allow its key members to pursue their geopolitical interests. If so, by deciding not to be a part of two of the Indo-Pacific's key trade agreements, New Delhi may have effectively undermined the pursuit of its own geopolitical interests in the region.

The door is still open

New Delhi should rethink its geoeconomic choices if it is serious about enhancing its geopolitical influence in the region. Given that India has not closed the door on the trade pillar of the IPEF, we have an opportunity to rethink our position. In fact, India should also rethink its decision not to join the RECP and seek to join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) from which the U.S. walked out and China is seeking to join. If joining all three is too radical for New Delhi, India should start with the IPEF and the CPTPP, both of which do not have China on board. India should also proactively lobby to become a part of the Minerals Security Partnership, the U.S.-led 11-member grouping to secure supply chains of critical minerals.

If indeed, India seeks to be a part of the Asian century and its economic growth story in particular (China's share in global trade today is 15% and India accounts for 2%), it must let go of its historical hesitations and phobias regarding multilateral trading arrangements. To that extent, the current policy of pursuing geopolitical ends without geoeconomic ballast is ill-thought out.

Happymon Jacob is Associate Professor, Centre for International Politics, Organisation and Disarmament, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

The gender pay gap, hard truths and actions needed

Asymmetries abound in India's labour market and closing the gap is key to achieving social justice for working women

DAGMAR WALTER & SUSAN FERGUSON

India is among the most important countries when it comes to the global economic growth and structural transformation story. A commensurate improvement in its labour market outcomes and a fair distribution of the fruits of economic progress will spur further economic growth and the benefits it brings. But, unsurprisingly, in a country the size and diversity of India, asymmetries still abound in the country's labour market.

Impact of the pandemic

Yesterday was the Third International Equal Pay Day 2022 – the day falls on September 18 – and it is time to pause and reflect on the extent of progress made towards closing the gender pay gap and reaffirming our collective commitment to the effective and accelerated realisation of the principle 'equal pay for work of equal value'. This 'becomes all the more important in the present context', given the disproportionate effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on women workers in terms of job and income losses. Full and productive economic growth requires a human-centred recovery from the pandemic, which will be made possible by improving women's employment outcomes and reducing the gender pay gap.

While the full impact of the pandemic is yet to be known, it is clear that its impact has been uneven, with women being among the worst affected in terms of their income security – partly due to their representation in sectors hard hit by COVID-19, combined with the gendered division of family responsibilities. Many women reverted to full-time care of children and the elderly during the pandemic, foregoing their livelihoods to do so.

A wider pay gap

This is attested by the International Labour Organization's "Global Wage Report 2020-21" which suggests the crisis inflicted massive downward pressure on wages and disproportionately affected women's total wages compared to men. This greater wage reduction for women means that the pre-existing gender pay gap has widened.

Despite notable progress in closing the gender pay gap over time in India, the gap remains high by international standards. Indian women earned, on an average, 48% less compared to their male counterparts in 1993-94. Since then, the gap declined to 28% in 2018-19 as in the labour force survey data of the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO). The pandemic reversed decades of progress as preliminary estimates from the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) 2020-21 show an increase in the gap by 7% between 2018-19 and 2020-21. The data further suggests that faster decline in female wages during the pandemic contributed to this decline, compared to a faster growth in male wages, which requires urgent policy attention.

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Discrimination as factor

While individual characteristics such as education, skills or experience explain part of the gender pay gap, a large part of the gender pay gap can still be attributed purely to discrimination based on one's gender or sex. Gender-based discriminatory practices include: lower wages paid to women for work of equal value; undervaluation of women's work in highly feminised occupations and enterprises, and motherhood pay gap – lower wages for mothers compared to non-mothers.

At the international level, the United Nations has put the challenge of closing various forms of gender inequality at the heart of its actions. The ILO has enshrined 'equal pay for work of equal value' in its Constitution and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) provides an international legal framework for realising gender equality and addressing the intersecting forms of discrimination and vulnerabilities among women and girls.

Steps taken by India

India has taken several steps in the legislative sphere to close the gender pay gap, especially at the low-end of the wage distribution. In this regard, it was one of the pioneering countries to enact the Minimum Wages Act in 1948 and followed by the adoption of the Equal Remuneration Act in 1976. In 2019, India carried out comprehensive reforms in both the legislation and enacted the Code on Wages.

Evidence shows that the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) in 2005 benefited rural women workers and helped reduce the gender pay gap, both directly and indirectly. Directly, by raising the pay levels of women workers who participated in the programme, and indirectly, benefits accrued to women involved in agricultural occupations through higher earnings, as MGNREGA contributed to the rapid rise in overall rural and agricultural wages in the country.

In 2017, the Government amended the Maternity Benefit Act of 1961, which increased the 'maternity leave with pay protection' from 12 weeks to 26 weeks for all women working in establishments employing 10 or more workers. This is expected to reduce the motherhood pay gap among mothers in the median and high-end wage earners working in the formal economy.

Apart from enabling legislations, efforts are being made through the Skill India Mission to equip women with market-relevant skills to bridge the learning-to-livelihood gap and the gender pay gap.

While the gender pay gap is slowly narrowing, at the current rate of progress it will take more than 70 years to close it completely. Accelerated and bold action is needed to prevent a widening of the gender pay gap and closing the existing gap.

One of the targets of the UN Sustainable Development Goal 8 is "achieving full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities and equal pay for work of equal value" by 2030. In support of this Goal, the Equal Pay International Coalition (EPIC), was launched in 2017 as a multi-stakeholder initiative led by the ILO, UN Women and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) that seeks to achieve equal pay for women and men everywhere.

Equal pay for work of equal value is necessary to close the gender pay gap. Closing the gender pay gap is key to achieving social justice for working women, as well as economic growth for the nation as a whole.

Dagmar Walter is Director of the International Labour Organization Decent Work Technical Support Team for South Asia and Country Office for India. Susan Ferguson is the United Nations (UN) Women Representative in India; part of the UN in India Team

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Cheetah reintroduction

The Government deserves praise for the reintroduction of the cheetah in India (Page 1, September 18), which highlights its commitment to biodiversity conservation and the protection of nature. The step should lead to the protection of all other species in India.

VIDHYA B. RAGUNATH,
Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu

■ It is a very long way ahead before India can have any hope of trying to conserve the species. I wonder whether any thought has been given to how the animals will survive against other wild creatures. All in all, it looks to be an exercise that has entailed a great expenditure of money. Whether all this would be fruitful, is the big question.

SUMAN KAUSHIK,
Patacharkuchi, Bajali, Assam

■ One of India's leading conservationists has been making a very strong point that instead of focusing on at least 10 other endangered species in India, the Government is needlessly spending money in bringing the cheetah all the way from Africa. He has also shared his concern about the well-being of the cheetah in a new environment. These are issues needing answers.

N. NAGARAJAN,
Secunderabad

A word of advice

The Prime Minister's calculated advice, or word of caution, to Russian President Vladimir Putin, that "today's era is not of war", appears to have received widespread appreciation across the world. Even Mr. Putin appears to have responded by saying that Russia is aware of the Indian stand on war and peace, which is encouraging.

The political Opposition in India should express its concurrence with the Government's stand on the issue. Such issue-based opinions would also help elevate the status of the Opposition and help it gain popular support.

P.R.V. RAJA,
Pandalam, Kerala

Climate change worries

There is no doubt that the extreme weather events being experienced in India are a result of climate change and global warming ('Science & Technology' page, "How climate change is altering Indian monsoon", September 18). Emissions caused by the burning of fossil fuels and trapping of heat in the atmosphere have increased fluctuations in the monsoon, causing a rain deficit in West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. This in turn is affecting crop patterns, especially rice production. Unless steps are taken to reduce emissions, such extreme weather events will continue to have bearing on food security.

Dr. THOMAS PALOCAREN,
Vellore, Tamil Nadu

A disruptive nexus of China and Pakistan

There is little doubt that China uses Pakistan as a proxy military and nuclear power against India

SUJAN CHINOY

GETTY IMAGES

Recently, China used its status as a permanent member of the UN Security Council (UNSC) to put a hold on the UN Security Council's Al Qaida and ISIL (Daesh) Sanctions Committee's (also known as the UNSC 1267 Committee) listing of Laskar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorist Sajid Mir, one of India's most wanted in the 2008 Mumbai attacks. Earlier, China had blocked the listing of US-designated terrorists Abdul Rehman Makki and Abdul Rauf Azhar of the LeT and the Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), respectively. It may be recalled that China brazenly opposed the listing of JeM chief Masood Azhar for ten years until 2019 before lifting the hold.

These terrorists are based in Pakistan and enjoy the patronage of its "deep state". Despite China's efforts to save its "all weather friend" from global censure, Pakistan continues to be in the "grey list" of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

China's misuse of its P-5 status disrupts collective efforts to counter terrorism. Such actions are in direct contrast to the consensus at the global level on the scourge that is international terrorism.

Counter-terrorism is not the only area in which the Sino-Pak tandem has weakened global efforts. The two have a long history of collusion in the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems as well. There are other examples of collaboration in military matters and in the area of infrastructure and connectivity that have proved destabilising to regional stability in South Asia.

Missile proliferation

The Sino-Pak nexus in the field of nuclear and missile proliferation is well recorded. The illicit A.Q. Khan network evolved into a three-way proliferation with China and Pakistan helping one another with bomb designs. Together, the two countries also helped North Korea with weapons of mass destruction (WMD) technologies. The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) had reported that between 1991 and 1993, China supplied 34 M-11 short range missiles to Pakistan in violation of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR). Subsequent cooperation included Chinese supply to Pakistan of ring magnets for high-speed centrifuges and the grandfathering of existing arrangements to deepen cooperation through the Chashma series of nuclear reactors.

Strong military ties have been the bedrock of China-Pakistan relations since the 1960s. For China, this has emerged as a low-cost tool to balance India and keep it hemmed in the subcontinent. Around 47% of China's military exports go to Pakistan and involve the full spectrum of support from small arms to fighter jets, as well as ships and submarines. These include advanced equipment such as the JF-17 fighter jets, the K-8 training aircraft, Airborne Warning and Control Systems (AWACS), the Al-Khalid tanks and the Babur cruise missile, among others.

The so-called China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which runs through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (POK) is one of the mainstays of connectivity under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). It violates the Sino-Pak border agreement of March 1963, Article 6 of which explicitly refers to its interim nature. Undertaken without any wider consultation with India, which has territorial claims over the region through which it runs, the CPEC has proved disruptive to both India-Pakistan and India-China relations.

China got engaged in the CPEC project for its own ends, more strategic than economic. The Karakoram Highway passes through the Khunjerab Pass and facilitates direct linkages between occupied Kashmir territory on both sides, including the trans-Karakoram tract of Shaksgam claimed by India, now part of China-occupied Kashmir. The CPEC offers China access to the Indian Ocean, natural resources and facilitates greater control over a strategic partner prone to upheavals.

Today, China is one of Pakistan's largest lenders, holding more than 27% of Pakistan's debt. Bilateral trade hovers around $20 billion but is skewed in favour of China which enjoys a huge favourable balance of trade in the region of $18 billion. There are signs of resentment in Pakistan at over-dependence on China, and the exploitative and usurious terms inherent in the CPEC projects.

One of the abiding features of the Sino-Pak collusion concerns the status of Jammu and Kashmir. During the 1950s, China's position on the Kashmir issue was relatively neutral. In the 1960s and 1970s, after the border conflict with India, China stepped up its rhetoric of support for "self-determination" for the people of Kashmir on the basis of UN resolutions. As the 1980s progressed and as relations between India and China gradually improved, China's stand underwent some change, with emphasis on resolving the issue on the basis of UN resolutions and relevant bilateral agreements.

After the abrogation of Article 370 by India in August 2019, China vehemently opposed the internal political changes effected by India. China unsuccessfully tried, thrice, to trigger discussions on J&K in the UN Security Council at the behest of Pakistan. Itself a party to the Kashmir dispute, China is surreptitiously pushing Pakistan to alter the status of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) by converting it into its fifth province. The intention is to dilute the interim character of the 1963 agreement between the two countries and consolidate the *de facto* possession of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (POK) territory by Pakistan and that of Shaksgam by China.

Political support

Apart from synchronising their positions at the UN, China and Pakistan have created new tandems extending to other international organisations such as the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). Pakistan is China's main bridge to Islamic world. Pakistan plays a key role in fending off pressure on China within the OIC on account of its human rights violations in Xinjiang and the ill-treatment of its Muslim minorities, especially the Uyghurs. Pakistan also remains sensitive to Chinese concerns with regard to East Turkestan Islamic Movement (ETIM) separatists seeking refuge in FATA (Federally Administered Tribal Areas).

As Pakistan has gradually drifted away from the U.S., it has moved closer to China. China's economic rise and growing clout is an enticing factor for a stricken economy such as that of Pakistan. As part of their Faustian bargain, the two act as hand maidens for each other on critical issues. In return for giving Pakistan a reprieve at the UN in the listing of Pak-based terrorists, China uses the former to secure its interests in the OIC. Taken in by the Sino-Pak shenanigans, the OIC has adopted hypocritical positions on the treatment of the Muslim minority in Xinjiang.

There is little doubt that China uses Pakistan as a proxy military and nuclear power against India. A key strategic objective for China is to seek access to basing facilities in Gwadar and other sites in the Indian Ocean littoral. Moreover, Pakistan's use of terrorism as an instrument of state policy appears, ironically, to be valued and encouraged by China, as demonstrated by the latter's actions at the UN.

Sujan Chinoy is the Director General of the Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, New Delhi. Views expressed are personal.

What numbers don't tell us

Prisons are meant to facilitate rehabilitation but have become disempowering spaces with a mental health crisis

MAITREYI MISRA

The latest numbers are out. 9,180 prisoners with mental illness, 150 deaths by suicide, five prisoners with schizophrenia and epilepsy have died.

While we know the numbers, we do not know what is being considered as a mental illness and whether these numbers are limited to persons who are in the mental health ward, or does it also include those who are living in barracks but still on psychiatric medication. We also do not know when the onset of the illness was and what the different illnesses were or how long they have been in prison for. The National Crime Records Bureau's (NCRB) Prison Statistics India Report is out for the year 2021. Perhaps it needs repeating, yet again that there is a mental health crisis in prisons.

We often hear that the aim of punishment (or at least one of its aims) is reform and rehabilitation. Yet when we look at the place where that punishment is served, we find conditions that, instead of promoting rehabilitation, ensure despair, hopelessness and helplessness. In any case, our prisons are not overcrowded with convicts, rather it is the undertrial population that makes up for over 70% of prison population. More than half of those with mental illness were undertrials (58.4% were undertrials, while 41.3% were convicts). However, the numbers could very well be higher.

For instance, Project 39A's report on mental health and the death penalty, *Deathworthy*, revealed that over 60% of death row prisoners had a current episode of mental illness, but many of them had not been identified by the prison as needing treatment and care. *Deathworthy* also revealed that suicide had little to do with mental illness and a lot with absent social support, violence, distress, and despair.

Lack of solutions

India's National Mental Health Policy, 2014, considers prisoners a class of people vulnerable to mental ill-health. But while the NRCB gives us data confirming this categorisation, it does not take us much further towards crafting solutions, and leaves us none the wiser. Why do we have so many prisoners living with a mental illness? Were all these prisoners living with a mental illness before incarceration, or did they have their first episode in prison? The system is not equipped to give us such crucial information.

Understanding these numbers in a meaningful context is important because without that our default response to this crisis will continue to be that of treatment and conversations will get stuck at the poor healthcare infrastructure in prison.

To resolve the mental health crisis in prison, a purely medical approach will take us only so far. We need to take a more all-encompassing approach, move beyond treatment of individuals and towards identifying the social and underlying determinants of mental health in prisons. We need to look at mental health in prisons from a social and structural perspective as well. Otherwise, we might end up with a heavily medicated prison population, but not a healthy one.

Aspects of incarceration

There are aspects of incarceration that cause distress – loss of liberty, loss of close contact with loved ones, loss of autonomy. A certain amount of distress in the prison population is, therefore, bound to be present. However, firstly the conversation cannot simply end there; the distress must be addressed in a way which is not limited to medicating it away. Secondly, there are aspects of incarceration that are now assumed to be its common features, such as overcrowding and violence, but are certainly not inherent to incarceration. It would be absurd to think a population subject to persistent violence (of different kinds) will be healthy.

Anyone who has interacted with prisoners and prison officials will attest to the fact that each is suspicious of the other and the relationship (as skewed as it is) is based on mistrust and fear. Spaces which are meant to facilitate rehabilitation instead become spaces with further disempowerment and disenfranchisement.

It is no coincidence that these are goals that are essential for a mentally healthy population. Reform, rehabilitation or reintegration are meant to make prisoners confident in their lives, their choices and their ability to take decisions and be responsible and accountable for it. The process is meant to be empathetic and caring. Instead, it is violent, harsh and ultimately leaves the prisoner no better off, if not worse off. That there are high rates of suicides and mental illness shouldn't surprise us. It should, though, make us question the aim and effectiveness of our penal and social justice policy.

Maitreyi Misra heads Mental Health and Criminal Justice team at Project 39A, National Law University, Delhi. She is the lead author of Project 39A's report Deathworthy: A Mental Health Perspective of the Death Penalty.

STATE OF PLAY

Floods and its political economy

Parties that have been in power since the 1990s will have to share the blame for the situation

K.V. ADITYA BHARADWAJ

The recent flooding of parts of Bengaluru, particularly the IT corridor, triggered an expected blame game between the ruling BJP and the opposition Congress as to who "wrecked" Bengaluru. Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai termed the encroachments of lakes, wetlands and storm water drains (SWDs) connecting lakes a "legacy" that his government inherited.

Looking back at how things have turned out since the 1990s, all parties that have been in power – the Congress for 13 years, the BJP, and various avatars of the Janata Dal for 10 years – will have to share the blame for the present state of affairs. Since the mid-1990s, which saw quick development of the IT corridor, this part of the city has been hit by floods many times. The Bellandur lake has spewed froth and foam and even been on fire, due to unbridled development and severe disruption of water ecology.

The IT corridor and its adjoining areas stretch from east Bengaluru along the Outer Ring Road to south-east Bengaluru. These areas were the worst-hit parts of the city by floods even before 2022. The location of Electronic City, established in 1978 to the south-east of the city, has played a key role in the spatial direction of the burgeoning IT corridor in the mid-1990s.

The IT boom saw not only tech parks and office spaces come up in the east-south-east axis of the city's outskirts, but also residential projects, schools and other amenities to cater to those working here. With an unrelenting construction boom, it has the densest settlements of labour colonies as well as upscale apartments. Development in this region has largely been unplanned; it is guided by a demand-supply logic without any regulation and rigged by a nexus of realtors and politicians. Experts have been pointing to a complete disregard for lakes, wetlands and SWDs along the east-south-east axis of the city. Climate change has only increased the frequency of extremely heavy rains in short interval events in Bengaluru. This has been one of the main reasons for flooding of parts of the city. Flooding has been more pronounced where the water flow ecosystem has been disrupted.

This unchecked development led by market forces has happened in the absence of government intervention for provision of basic infrastructure such as housing. It is striking that the Bengaluru Development Authority (BDA) never tried to develop a housing layout in the city's bustling IT corridor. Their layouts don't seem to spatially match the direction of development in the city.

A planned development in these areas may not have allowed for the existing density and would have also addressed concerns of regional disparity in development within the city. As a testament to the resilience of planned development, older parts of Bengaluru are able to handle extreme weather events better, though chinks in their infrastructure also show up.

The areas most flooded now were mostly governed by gram panchayats and town municipalities, which have relatively weak regulatory mechanisms, during the peak of the development boom. They were included within the city limits only in 2007. Civic agencies are still playing catch-up to provide infrastructure. Ironically, the world-renowned IT hub is yet to get a functional modern drainage system and piped drinking water.

There is perhaps no quick fix for the mess and it needs a great political will to take a long-term view and set things right. The government has started a drive to remove encroachments of SWDs and wetlands, just as it has done every time there have been floods. Every time, the drive has stopped at the gates of the rich and powerful. This trend is irrespective of the party in power.

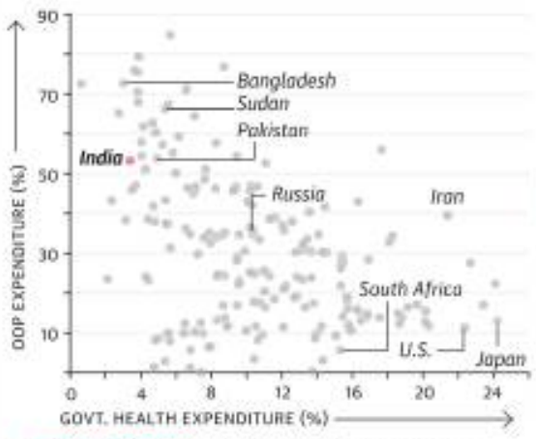
adhitya.bharadwaj@thehindu.co.in

DATA POINT

A not-so-clean bill of health

Indians pay half their health expenses out of their pockets, while South Africans spend just 5% with the government and insurance taking care of the rest. The share of out-of-pocket (OOP) expenditure in India is one of the highest in the world. On the other hand, government health expenditure on health was among the lowest. As health is a State subject, States undertake a majority of public health spending. However, public health spending as a share of total government expenditure has largely remained stagnant or reduced for most States in recent years. In nine States, the share of out-of-pocket expenditure in total health expenses was above 50%, while in 17 States, the government spending per capita on health was below ₹2,000. Notably, in several States, health inflation has surged after the pandemic, a cause of concern given low levels of insurance coverage and insufficient government health budget. The findings are based on the recently released report, "National Health Accounts 2018-19". By **Jasmin Nihalani**

INDIA'S HEALTH SPENDING | Chart plots OOP expenditure as a share of health expenditure# (%) and government health expenditure* as a share of their total expenditure^. Among 189 countries, India has one of the highest OOP health expenditure (53.2%) and the lowest government health expenditure (3.39%)



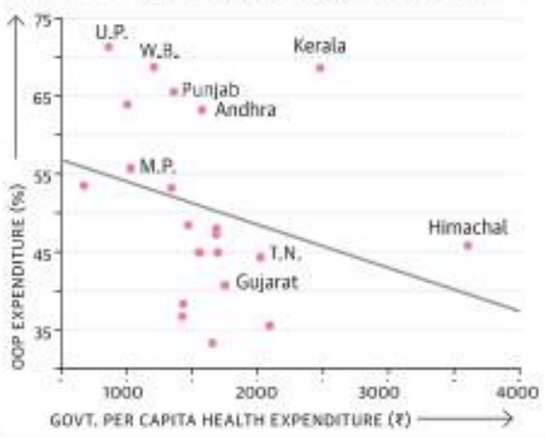
STATE-WISE SPENDING
Table lists the State government health expenditure (GHE) as a share of total expenditure for FY19 and the change from the average health expense between FY16 and FY18. The change in government expenditure ranged between 1.3% points (in Jharkhand) to -1.2% points (J&K), showing that health spending largely remained stagnant

States	GHE FY19	Change % point
Jharkhand	6.1	+1.3
Rajasthan	7.0	+0.9
T.N.	6.9	+0.9
Bihar	5.5	+0.8
Haryana	5.3	+0.6
Himachal	7.4	+0.6
Uttarakhand	6.0	+0.6

National Health Policy 2017 recommended that expenditure on health cross 8% of the total spending, but none of the States did so in FY19

States	GHE FY19	Change
Odisha	5.6	+0.6
Gujarat	7.4	+0.5
Kerala	7.4	+0.3
W.B.	6.5	+0.3
M.P.	4.9	+0.2
A.P.	5.5	+0.2
Assam	7.1	+0.1
U.P.	5.3	-0.2
Karnataka	5.5	-0.2
Maharashtra	5.9	-0.3
Chhattisgarh	5.7	-0.3
Punjab	5.2	-0.4
Telangana	5.2	-0.6
J&K	3.1	-1.2

OUT-OF-POCKET | Chart plots OOP expenditure as a % of health expenditure against the govt.'s per capita expense in FY19. As the trendline suggests, there is a slight negative correlation between the two, with higher per capita spending, OOP expense decreases. States such as U.P., W.B., and Punjab have a relatively higher OOP expense and low per capita spending by the government



HEALTH INFLATION | Chart shows the change between the average retail health inflation in 2019 and 2021 for States where health inflation recorded a rise. For instance, in Chhattisgarh, the annual average health inflation was 1.9% in 2019 and 6.8% in 2021 – an increase of about 5% points. Given that bulk of the health expenditure is met OOP in many States, a surging health inflation impacts the consumers more

Source: National Health Accounts, WHO, MOSPI

The Hindu.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 19, 1972

Ugandan plane bombs Tanzania

Dar es Salaam, Sept. 18: A Ugandan plane bombed the northern Tanzanian town of Bukoba to-day, killing four people, government sources here said. The sources said the bombs were believed to have fallen in the market place. Bukoba (population of 30,000) lies on the west shore of Lake Victoria, 32 km south of Tanzania's border with Uganda. The eight-year-old Ugandan Air Force explained rapidly that Israeli and Czechoslovak training aid includes seven MIG 15 fighter bombers and about 10 armed jet trainers. The type of plane, which was said to have made its raid at 3:30 a.m. GMT was not immediately known. In Kampala, an Ugandan military spokesman to-day announced that three towns in south western Uganda, said to have been occupied by a Tanzanian invasion force yesterday, had been recaptured and the Ugandan Air Force had destroyed enemy position in Bukoba. The spokesman said the town of Mbarara had been recaptured by the Uganda Air Force and the Simba (Lion) Battalion which is garrisoned at Mbarara. These units had also recaptured Kyotera and Kalisizo, two small towns south of Masaka.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO SEPT. 19, 1922

Bolshevic gold for India

In one of the meetings of the Assembly, Mr. Harchandrai Vishindas, Member, Legislative Assembly, asked at question time whether there was any truth in Reuters' statement some time ago alleged to have been made by a Soviet Chief Zinoviev at a meeting of the Central Communist Organisation that about seven million gold roubles were spent in subsidising the Gandhian Movement in India. Sir William Vincent, on behalf of the Government, replied they have no information as to the accuracy of Reuters' above statement. The reply is evasive and ridiculous. Sir William ought to have informed the House whether he had made the necessary enquiries and tested the accuracy of information and if so, with what result. No one with common sense enough can suppose that the Government which is day and night haunted by the spectre of non-cooperation could have kept silent over Reuters' statement. I am informed they tried their level best after the above statement to see if somehow or other, they could trace the Tilak Swaraj and Khilafat funds to Zinoviev's seven million gold roubles, but in vain.

FROM PAGE ONE

Lumpy skin disease virus is different...

The authors are Lenin Bhatt, Rahul C. Bhoyar, Bani Jolly, Ravi Israni, Harie Vignesh, Vinod Scaria, Sridhar Sivasubbu. The study appears on the preprint server Bioarxiv and is yet to be peer reviewed.

This is significant as Lumpi-ProVacInd, a vaccine developed by the Indian Veterinary Research Institute, and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research's (ICAR) National Research Centre on Equines is based on LSD virus samples from cattle in Ranchi afflicted in the 2019 outbreak.

However, the experimental trials conducted on animals afflicted in the ongoing 2022 outbreak with the vaccine have revealed encouraging results, ICAR and the Ministry of Agriculture have stated. The vaccine is a live attenuated, or a weakened version of the virus that when injected into animals is expected to stimulate the immune system and protect against a probable infection. Currently, the only vaccines available for the disease are vaccines for goat pox and sheep pox, which are related to the LSD virus.

"That's the million-dollar question on what the implications of this genome sequencing mean for the vaccine," Sridhar Sivasubbu of the CSIR-IGIB and one of the scientists associated with the genome sequencing study said.

This specific study, he said, threw no light as there were too few animals tested and only a broader sample of viral genomes spanning several States could answer if the variants identified and analysed in Rajasthan as part of the study were widespread in India.

Another point of concern that the IGIB study raises is that one of the animals appeared to have two different variants of the LSD virus when virus was extracted from its nose as well as from the skin, suggesting that the virus appeared to be able to evolve within a single host. This again speaks to the increased infectivity of the LSD virus in 2022 compared to 2019.

Lumpy skin disease is a contagious viral disease that spreads among cattle through mosquitoes, flies, lice, and wasps by direct contact, and also through contaminated food and water. The disease causes fever and nodules on the skin, and it can be fatal. Symptoms include skin nodules of about two to five centimetres, high fever, reduced milk production, loss of appetite, and watery eyes.

Darul Uloom supports survey of madrasas, issues advisory

Seminary asks all managements to cooperate with officials of U.P. government

ANUJ KUMAR
GHAZIABAD

In a press conference of madrasas organised by Darul Uloom in Deoband on Sunday, the leading Islamic seminary said it was not against the ongoing Uttar Pradesh government survey of unrecognised madrasas in the State, and appealed to the management of madrasas to cooperate with the government officials in carrying out the survey.

Rabta Madaris-e-Islamia Arabia, the body that governs the madrasas affiliated with Darul Uloom, released a manifesto that included a four-point advisory that said the management of madrasas should provide documents to the officials conducting the survey and maintain transparency in financial records.

It further said the ownership records should be kept in order and the madrasa land should be registered as per the law. The madrasas have also been advised to maintain a clean and hygienic environment and provide healthy food to students.

The conference, attended by around 250 madrasas of the State, was addressed by Maulana Arshad Madani, president of Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind, and Maulana Mufti Abdul Qasim Nomani, rector of the seminary.

Ready for scrutiny: Maulana Arshad Madani addresses a press conference in Deoband on Sunday. • PTI

Addressing the media, Mr. Madani said the seminary or the Muslims, in general, had no objection to the survey being conducted by the Yogi Adityanath government and the doors of the madrasas were open to all. "So far, the picture of the survey that has come out, there is nothing to fear or be apprehensive about."

Reiterating that madrasas had played an important role in the Freedom Movement, Mr. Madani appealed to the directors of the madrasas "to cooperate in the survey as we have nothing to hide". The senior Islamic scholar said as much as the community needed doctors and engineers, it also needed clerics and muezzins to serve at the mosques across the country.

On the funding of madrasas, Mr. Madani said Muslims take government help in worldly matters. "We don't seek government support in matters of religion...in running of mosques and madrasas."

Answering a question on the education in madrasas, Mr. Madani said the Darul Uloom was working with the government to streamline the education in madrasas, and in the next five to seven years, the seminary would admit only those who had passed the Class 10 from a recognised education board.

Mr. Nomani said the madrasas were being run as per the freedom of thought, belief, and religion guaranteed by the Constitution. He advised the management of madrasas to maintain transparency in financial matters and get their accounts audited.

Earlier, Maulana Mufti Shukat Bastavi, chief of Rabta Madaris-e-Islamia Arabia, said the madrasas played an important role in preserving the Islamic heritage and in uprooting the British colonial rule.

"On one hand we fulfilled the theological needs of the largest minority in the country and on the other we created responsible citizens for the country." He said the madrasas had consistently raised their voice against terrorism and helped provide education to the poorest sections of society. "The intelligence agencies are free to check these madrasas. Over the years, none of the madrasas have been found indulging in anti-national activities." He appealed to the media to keep a positive outlook on madrasas.

Protest at varsity over 'objectionable videos'

A Chandigarh University student held

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CHANDIGARH

Protests erupted on the campus of a private university in Mohali over "rumours" that objectionable videos of several women students were recorded by a hosteller, following which Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Sunday ordered a probe. The police arrested a woman student and sent a team to apprehend a youth in Himachal Pradesh.

Women protesters outside the Chandigarh University.

Punjab's Additional Director-General of Police (DGP) Gurpreet Deo, who reached the Chandigarh University campus along with other senior officials to take stock of the situation after Saturday night protests, told presspersons that the woman appeared to have shared a video of herself with the youth and no objectionable video of any other student was found.

The university authorities also rejected as "false and baseless" reports that claimed that videos of several women students in the hostel were made and leaked on social media and that students had attempted suicide after the episode. However, a fresh protest was held on the university campus on Sunday evening by a large number of students with some of them accusing the university authorities of "suppressing" the incident.

Mohali Senior Superintendent of Police Vivek Sheel Soni told reporters that the protests took place in the university past Saturday midnight after "rumours" that videos of several women students had been made and leaked.

The arrested student's mobile phone has been seized for forensic analysis, he said, adding that no suicide attempt by any student or death has occurred.

An FIR under Section 354-C (voyeurism) of the IPC and the IT Act has been registered and further probe is on, officials said.

Mr. Mann ordered the probe into the incident, saying strict action will be taken against those found guilty.

NIA conducts searches in Telangana, A.P.

N. RAHUL
HYDERABAD

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Sunday carried out searches at 38 locations across Telangana and two in Andhra Pradesh as a sequel to the arrest of four suspected activists of the Popular Front of India (PFI), which allegedly carried out training in Islamic fundamentalism in the name of imparting training for martial arts and legal awareness.

The Nizamabad district convener of the PFI, Sheikh Sahadullah, and his associates Abdul Khader, Mohammed Imran and Mohammed Abdul Mobin were arrested by the police after they were booked in July. The case was transferred to the NIA last month. On Sunday, the NIA searched 23 locations in Nizamabad, four in Hyderabad, seven in Jagtial, two in Nirmal and one each in Adilabad and Karimnagar districts of Telangana and one each in Kurnool and Nellore districts of A.P.

An NIA release said the case related to Abdul Khader of Nizamabad and 26 others. The accused were organising camps for imparting training to commit terrorist acts and promote enmity between different groups on the basis of religion.

Four detained

During the searches on Sunday, incriminating material which included digital devices, documents, two daggers and cash worth ₹8.31 lakh were seized. Four persons were detained. Further investigation is on.

The teams of the NIA cordoned off the houses of suspected PFI activists with the help of the local police since dawn.

The officials questioned friends and family members of the suspects. Some of them reportedly fled on prior information, informed sources said.

L-G opens cinemas in Pulwama and Shopian

Theatres in Valley closed since 1990

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

South Kashmir's Pulwama and Shopian districts, once a hub of militancy, on Sunday saw the inauguration of two cinema halls by Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha. These cinema halls are the first such entertainment spaces in the highly volatile districts.

"Inaugurated multipurpose cinema halls at Pulwama and Shopian. They offer facilities ranging from movie screening, infotainment and skilling of youth," Mr. Sinha said.

The opening of these cinema halls is part of efforts to set up multipurpose cinema halls in every district of J&K. All cinema halls closed in the Kashmir valley in 1990 when militancy broke out. The effort to reopen cinema halls in 1998-99 failed to revive the movie culture.

Mr. Sinha said it has been decided to come up with multipurpose cinema halls in every district under 'Mission Youth'. "In coming days such cinema halls will come up in every district so that youth can benefit from it," Mr. Sinha said.

Meanwhile, Mr. Sinha also dedicated a 120-ft-tall National Flag to the nation at Pulwama, which was earlier prone to frequent gunfights and anti-India protests.

"Tricolour is the symbol of one nation, one emotion, one identity. It is the honour and pride of our great nation, the reflection of dreams of our forefathers and the aspirations of our youth," he stated.

The Lt. Governor said that the new development initiatives inaugurated in Pulwama were aimed at empowering the youth, enabling self-development, sharpening skills and helping them to realise their dreams.

Leaders in U.K. for Queen's funeral

President Murmu was among those who offered tributes to the departed soul

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN
LONDON

World leaders and royalty arrived in London on Saturday night and Sunday to offer condolences on behalf of their countries and say their final goodbyes to Queen Elizabeth II whose state funeral is scheduled for Monday. The 96-year-old Queen – Britain's longest reigning monarch of 70 years – died on September 8 in Scotland. President Droupadi Murmu was among those who visited Westminster Hall in the British Parliament complex on Sunday, where the Queen is lying in state.

"President Droupadi Murmu visited Westminster Hall London where the body of Her Majesty the Queen Elizabeth II is lying in state. The President offered tributes to the departed soul on her own behalf and on behalf of the people of India," the President's official Twitter handle said. Among those with her was Deputy High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, Sujit Ghosh.

Paying tributes: President Droupadi Murmu signing a book of condolences on Sunday, the eve of the Queen's funeral. • AP

U.S. President Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden, along with U.S. Ambassador to the U.K. Jane Hartley could also be seen in Westminster Hall paying their respects. Thousands of people continued to arrive in Westminster Hall, some apparently unaware of the high-profile visitors on the balconies on the sides of the 900-plus-year-old hall.

Stretched for miles

The line to see the Queen lying in state, "The Queue" as it has come to be known colloquially, has stretched for miles, with wait times on Saturday being estimated at 17 hours. Former footballer David Beckham was among those who queued, telling the media that he waited 12 hours. Others in London for the funeral included Japan's Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako, French President Emmanuel Macron and First Lady Bridgette Macron,

As *The Hindu* went to press, the leaders gathered at Buckingham Palace for a reception hosted by King Charles III and Camilla, the Queen Consort. Over the weekend, the new king met with heads of government from commonwealth "realms" – of which he is the head of state. These included Prime Ministers Justin Trudeau of Canada, Andrew Holness of Jamaica, Jacinda Ardern of New Zealand, Anthony Albanese of Australia.

The Queen's funeral will be held at 11 a.m. local time at Westminster Abbey followed by a 4 p.m. service at St. George's Chapel in Windsor and a burial at 7.30 p.m. at King George VI Memorial Chapel, Windsor, which will be closed to the public.

8 preachers held under PSA, say police

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

At least eight religious preachers were being booked for instigating youth, the Jammu & Kashmir Police said on Sunday. The preachers, including three prominent Islamic scholars, have been arrested in the Valley in the past three days.

"They [the preachers] had been warned but they didn't budge. They were booked under the Public Safety Act (PSA) for instigating youth despite being warned several times," Additional Director-General of Police Vijay Kumar said.

"There are reports that some of the clerics are doing the same practice. Soon after getting proper evidence, they too will be booked," Mr. Kumar said.

He said some clerics were being "sensitised and let go". "PSA is the last option when someone continues to indulge in wrong practice. Maintaining the law and order situation is not only the duty of police but also of people. People can play an important role in maintaining a peaceful atmosphere," Mr. Kumar said.

Insurgency down in northeast, Army shifts to LAC

Assam Rifles has now been given the responsibility of counter-insurgency operations in the region

DINAKAR PERI
LAIPULI/ NEW DELHI

With insurgency having significantly gone down in the northeast as seen by recent revocation of Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) in several parts of the region, the Army has been able to pull out most of its troops from counter-insurgency (CI) duties to refocus on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) amid the stand-off with China in Eastern Ladakh in the last two years. Assam Rifles is now responsible for all CI duties.

There is only one Army Brigade in the entire Eastern sector now tasked with CI duties with its mandate spread across four districts of Assam bordering Arunachal. "Insurgency has waned and the counter to it has also changed. It is a whole-of-the-nation approach now. Now the battle is for the mind-space," said Brig. K.S. Gill, commanding the 73 Brigade. Recruitment still happens but has come down in last two years, he stated.

Elaborating, he said while space for United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA) is shrinking, residual potential still remains and "it's a threat in being" as threat of use of Improvised Explosive Devices (IED), kidnapping and extortion loom large.

However, their operational space is reducing due to constant pressure on them and outreach to people for development, Brig. Gill said adding they continue to keep pressure by area domination, keeping up checks and "intelligence-based ethical operations."

'Major achievement'

Terming the lifting of AFSPA from areas of Manipur, Nagaland and Assam as a "momentous achievement" made possible by reduction in violence, Lt. Gen. R.P. Kalita, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Command, noted that the Act is now restricted to only those areas where remnants of militancy still exist.

"With public support and our constant domination of these areas, I am sanguine that in the future, more such areas will reach a level of peace," he said speaking on the sidelines of an event at Kibithu. The situation is dynamic and is being constantly monitored, he stated.

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has also been active and keeping up the pressure. In addition to dwindling recruitment, there have also been desertions among the cadres and also differences among the various factions.

In this regard, the footprint of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN) has been seen in Assam of late, officials on the ground said, with inputs suggesting that that NSCN (Ky) is working with ULFA. NSCN (Ky) is active in Longding, Tirap and Changlng districts of Nagaland and so offers a conduit for ULFA.

Among the various initiatives by the Army to win hearts and minds of the people, those that have caught attention are an effort to impart training in football and another to impart training to students to crack national-level entrance examinations for engineering and medicine.

Football tournament

For instance, the 'Capt. Jintu Gogoi, VrC Memorial Football Tournament' organised in February-March this year by the Army in coordination with the Assam Football Association and Tinsukia District Sports Authority was a huge draw. It brought together 64 teams from several districts of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh, according to Lt. Col. Kumar Gaurav, who was involved in the organisation of the tournament.

"It was not just a match, but a platform for budding talent to go ahead and get national recognition," he said.

Capt. Gogoi from Assam served in 17 Garhwal Rifles and was posthumously awarded the Vir Chakra (VrC) for his actions during the Kargil conflict of 1999.

Commenting on reorientation, Lt. Gen. Kalita said the deployment of Army on CI duties is dictated by the security situation and the violence parameters and as situation improves, Army is de-inducted and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) and police take on the responsibility of ensuring peace and stability.

"In northeast also, with improvement in situation, Army has got de-inducted and is geared to look at the primary role," he said while cautioning that even while being employed for CI Ops, the units are always prepared for a conventional role at all times.

"We have a large border with three neighbouring countries, each with its own unique dynamics. Therefore, our units and troops are always prepared, trained and equipped for multifarious tasks and multiple threat scenarios," Lt. Gen. Kalita added. "This is an ongoing exercise all round the year," he added.

Two Divisions of troops have been pulled off CI duties and redeployed along the Line of Actual Control in tune with the overall reorientation towards the LAC carried out by the Army since the May 2020 standoff. Of the 3,488-km-long LAC, 1,346 km falls in the Eastern sector.

CBI visits Goa to probe Sonali Phogat death case

BJP leader was found dead in August

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Saturday visited the hotel in Goa where BJP leader Sonali Phogat had stayed before she died under mysterious circumstances in August.

Based on the findings so far, the agency recreated the sequence of events leading up to the incident. Forensic experts also accompanied the CBI team to gather evidence. The case was referred to the CBI through the Ministry of Home Affairs on September 12, soon after Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant said that on the request of the victim's family members he would urge Union Home Minister Amit Shah to transfer the probe to the Central agency.

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar also said that the CBI would investigate the allegations of foul play if the victim's family members were not satisfied with the local police's probe. The 42-year-old was declared dead at a hospital in north Goa's Anjuna on August 23. The post-mortem report revealed blunt force injury on her body after which the local police had registered a murder case. The police had alleged that she was forcibly drugged by her two associates, who were arrested after being arraigned as accused.

APPEAL

I am Elavarasi aged 14 years, suffering from Myelodysplastic Syndrome and underwent Bone Marrow Transplantation as the only curative treatment. But my immunity is very low to combat infections. The total medical management and supportive care is **Rs.4,00,000/-**. Please donate and support me as my family is extremely poor and cannot afford this huge expenditure at Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai. I need your contribution and blessings. Donations sent by Ch/D.D. favouring Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai will be acknowledged. The donations sent through Ch/D.D/NEFT Transfer & GOOGLE PAY (Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/C No.60182010063310, IFSC No. CNRB0016018) favouring **WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE** is exempted under 80G IT.

All correspondence is done through **WWS**, Regd. Public Charitable Trust, **Flat No. GF 1, Cordel Apartments, G.No.13, N.No.29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai - 600006. Ph: 044-42137401/28235324/7338978027. E Mail ID: womenswelfaresyndicate@gmail.com** Website: www.womenswelfaresyndicate.org

Elavarasi

'Rahul the acknowledged leader of Cong.'

The rank and file want him to be president of the party, says former Union Minister Chidambaram

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Former Union Finance Minister P. Chidambaram on Sunday favoured a consensus for the post of the All India Congress Committee (AICC) chief, and asserted that Rahul Gandhi will always have a "pre-eminent place" in the party irrespective of whether he is president as he is the "acknowledged leader" of the rank and file.

So far, Mr. Gandhi has declined to take on the mantle of party presidency but may change his mind, the Congress Working Committee member said, just days ahead of the notification of the poll to elect the AICC chief.

Mr. Chidambaram said there was no occasion for any controversy over the fairness and transparency of the party president election, and asserted that had central election authority chairman Madhusudan Mistry's last statement on the concerns of some of the leaders come on the first day, the matter would have stood resolved.

Underlining that it was not the practice of any political party to publish the roll of the electoral college, he said the PCC-wise electoral roll would be available for inspection at the office of the PCC concerned, while the all-India electoral roll would be available for inspection at the office of the AICC.

"Every nominated candidate will be entitled to a copy of the electoral roll. Mr. Mistry has since clarified these self-evident points and the MPs have said they were satisfied. The matter is rested," Mr. Chidambaram said.

Lok Sabha members Shashi Tharoor, Manish Tewari, Karti Chidambaram, Pradyut Bordoloi and Abdul Khaleque had written to Mr. Mistry, seeking clarity on the issue of electoral rolls, to which the party's poll panel chief had clarified that anyone wanting to file nomination for the post of Congress president would be able see the list of the more than 9,000 PCC delegates at the AICC's central election authority office from September 20.

Consensus candidate

Mr. Chidambaram also asked if the media had raised such issues when the BJP or any other party held its election. "I cannot recall Mr. J.P. Nadda asking for the electoral roll or filing his nomination," he said.

On whether consensus or election would be better for the post of AICC president, Mr. Chidambaram said while election was the default option, "the better course, and all parties follow this, is to elect a national president by consensus". "If my recollection is correct, Mr. Nadda, and before him Mr. Amit Shah, Mr. Rajnath Singh and Mr. Gadkari, were all elected by consensus," he said.

On whether Mr. Gandhi will heed appeals of party workers and leaders, Mr. Chidambaram said he did not know the answer to that question. "Rahul Gandhi is the acknowledged leader of the rank and file of the party. They want him to be the president of the party also. So far, he has declined. He may change his mind," he said.

Asked whether the Gandhi family would continue to occupy a place of pre-eminence in the party if a non-Gandhi president was elected, he cited the history of the Congress and pointed out that between 1921 and 1948, Mahatma Gandhi was the acknowledged leader of the Congress, and afterwards, Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi, one following the other, were the acknowledged leaders of the party.

"Apart from the leader, there were several people who held the office of president of the party for one or two or three years. There have been periods in the Congress's history when the leader and the president were the same person, and there have also been long periods when the leader and the president were different people," he said.

The Rajya Sabha member said if Mr. Gandhi was elected Congress president, he would be both the leader and president, but if he is not, he would remain the acknowledged leader of the party and there would be another person holding the office of the president.

Asked if a non-Gandhi family person would command the same respect and authority, the senior leader said: "I am certain whoever is elected Congress president will rise to the occasion and command respect among the leaders and the rank and file of the party."

'Project Cheetah' began in 2009, says Ramesh

Congress leader slams Modi for 'lying'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Sunday shared a letter on Twitter which, he said, initiated Project Cheetah in 2009 and accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of being a "pathological liar" for criticising previous governments for not making constructive efforts to reintroduce the big cat in India.

Jairam Ramesh

Mr. Modi on Saturday hit out at the previous governments, saying, "It is unfortunate that we declared cheetahs extinct in 1952, but for decades no constructive efforts were made to reintroduce them in India. Now, with new strength and vigour, the country has embarked on the project of reviving the population of cheetahs during this *amrit kaal*." He made the remarks after releasing three of the eight cheetahs flown in from Namibia into special enclosures at the Kuno National Park in Sheopur district of Madhya Pradesh.

"This was the letter that launched Project Cheetah in 2009. Our PM is a pathological liar. I couldn't lay my hands on this letter yesterday because of my preoccupation with the Bharat Jodo Yatra," Mr. Ramesh tweeted.

Along with the tweet, Mr. Ramesh shared the letter he, as then Minister for Environment and Forests, had written to M.K. Ranjitsinh of the Wildlife Trust of India in 2009.

In the letter, Mr. Ramesh had asked Mr. Ranjitsinh to prepare a road map for the reintroduction of cheetah and include a detailed analysis of different potential sites.

8 MLAs who joined Goa BJP to meet PM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PANAJI

Eight MLAs who recently switched over from the Congress to the ruling BJP in Goa will meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Delhi on Monday, a senior party leader said on Sunday.

Six of them, led by Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant and the BJP state unit president Sadanand Tanavade, will leave for Delhi by flight on Sunday night, while MLAs Michael Lobo and Digambar Kamat, who are currently out of station, will join them later in the national capital, he said.

According to BJP sources, the MLAs were also likely to meet BJP president J. P. Nadda and Union Home Minister Amit Shah during their Delhi visit, but the appointments are not confirmed yet.

The BJP retained power in the 40-member Goa Assembly after the election in March and has 28 MLAs, while the number of Congress MLAs has been reduced to three.

Vacant offices, unaware office-bearers: curious case of delisted parties

EC recently struck off 86 of them

DAMINI NATH
MUNEEF KHAN
NEW DELHI

Behind the Election Commission's recent list of "non-existent" political parties are "office addresses" that were vacated years ago or those that could not be traced at all, but in some cases, the move has come as a surprise for office-bearers.

The EC has been on a mission to clean up the list of registered unrecognised political parties, deleting 284 since May for either being untraceable during a physical check or not responding to communications. As per its latest order on September 13, the EC delisted 86 parties, of which 14 were in Delhi. These parties were found to be in violation of the Representation of the People Act, which mandates that every registered party must inform the EC of any change in address, office-bearers, name, or Permanent Account Number.

'No knowledge'

Among the six delisted parties *The Hindu* tried to track down in Delhi was the Loktantrik Janata Front. Its office in east Delhi's Laxmi Nagar had no signage or address displayed. Sitting in the dimly lit, third-floor office, Yogesh Chaturvedi said he had been a member of the party for at least 12 years. He said the party had contested the Uttar Pradesh Assembly election in the past. "We have not received any notice from EC yet, our lawyer will respond if we do. We are very much still active," he said. The party's main cause was "reservation on the basis of income criteria, not caste", he said.

For Sumant Sharma, 60, acting president of the Rashtriya Krantikari Janata Party, the news of his party's deletion came as a surprise. He said he had "regularly filed" contribution reports, tax statements and other necessary documents to the EC since founding the party in 2007. While he said the address had changed from the city's Karol Bagh locality to Sangam Vihar, the EC's deletion order mentioned the old address. He said the party had contested elections in Delhi and Bihar. In the 2009 Lok Sabha election, its New Delhi candidate, Harendra, secured 1,079 votes.

"We have not fought any elections since 2014. However, I did try contesting in 2019 from the South Delhi constituency, but my application was not accepted...I have no clue as to why our party was delisted and I will raise this issue with the ECI," Mr. Sharma said.

The EC's September 13 order had highlighted that a party must contest an election within five years of its registration, and should continue to contest thereafter. "If the party does not contest elections continuously for six years, the party shall be taken off the list of registered parties," it said.

For some of the delisted parties, the addresses registered with the EC had new occupants or none at all. The unmarked basement of a three-storey building in Chirag Enclave was listed as the address of one such party, the All-India Babu Jagjivan Ram Baba Saheb National Congress, but upon visiting, it was found to be empty. Residents said the party office was vacated close to a decade ago.

The tale of the Bharatiya Parivartan Party was similar. Its registered address, the ground floor of a Delhi Development Authority flat in Pandav Nagar, has been home to a family since they purchased the house in 2008.

A neighbour said he remembered a "*dabang* type", implying a strongman character, had rented the flat years ago, for a few months. He recalled a makeshift office, but didn't remember much else about it.

While the delisted parties have till October 13 to approach the EC with proof of their existence, it remains to be seen how many actually do so.

Fruits of labour

A farm worker plucking apples at an orchard in Budgam district of central Kashmir. Apple harvest is at its peak in the region but import of apples from Turkey and Iran has led to a fall in the prices in major markets across the country, say farmers. • PTI

Books on Manipur will need State govt. clearance

15-member panel to scan material

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

All books on Manipur's history, culture, tradition and geography will have to be approved by a State-appointed panel before they are published, the BJP-led government in the State has said in an order.

Vice-Chancellors and college teachers - serving and retired - will comprise the 15-member committee to be headed by Manipur Education Minister Thounaojam Basanta, the September 15 order issued by Higher and Technical Education Joint Secretary Divedita Lairenlakpam said. The director of University and Higher Education will be the member-secretary of the panel "to accord approval for publication of books on these topics concerning the State".

"It has come to the knowledge of the government that some books published on the said topics contain materials which may either distort facts or disturb the peaceful co-existence amongst the various communities in State or both," the order read.

"Therefore, any person/group desirous of publishing of books on the history, culture, tradition and geography of the State may submit an application to the University and Higher Education director along with a copy of the manuscript of the book, for placing the same before the committee for its approval," it added, warning of punishment under the relevant law if books are published in violation of the order.

Academics, declining to be quoted, said the order would curtail academic freedom and stifle the critics of the government.

Sawar, Sawara and Saunra: one and the same tribe now

With the Union Cabinet approving spelling variations for 11 tribes in the State, the decades-long struggle has drawn to an end

SHUBHOMOY SIKDAR
RAIPUR

Soon after he got a government job as a teacher in Bastar in 2010, Shivprasad Bhoi, now 39, was asked to get his Scheduled Tribe certificate attested. What he then presumed to be a simple exercise turned out to be a nightmare. A spelling variation in the name of his tribe, Sawar, eventually resulted in his dismissal from service 15 months later. He did not get paid for his services during the period and has not found another job ever since.

"Not having my ST certificate turned out to be a huge impediment. Seeking help from government officials and Ministers proved futile. I kept insisting I was from the Sawar tribe, but the spelling variation meant nothing could be done. I was left with no choice but to return to farming," Mr. Bhoi says.

Last week, the Union Cabinet approved the inclusion of spelling variations for 11 tribes on the list of Scheduled Tribes of Chhattisgarh and 'Sawar' or 'Sawara' was one of those. According to Shammi Abidi, Commissioner, Scheduled Tribe Development Department, and Director, Tribal Research and Training Institute (TRTI), the decision will benefit nearly one lakh people across Chhattisgarh.

The ruling Congress in Chhattisgarh and its main challenger, the BJP, are both claiming credit for the latest approval.

Mr. Bhoi is still hoping for retrospective relief when the note gets parliamentary approval and presidential assent but admits that the chances are slim. However, he is relieved that many others from these tribes may not meet the same fate as his.

A long process

The ruling Congress in Chhattisgarh and its main challenger, the BJP, are both claiming credit for the latest approval. However, it came through a long process fraught with challenges, say community leaders and others who have worked closely with these tribes over the past decade and a half.

"The system is such that the burden of proof lies with the applicant who wants a certificate issued or attested. Most miss out because they are illiterate and did not know what was entered in the documents they had been issued or had inherited from their parents. Some families didn't even keep the documents. In certain cases, the pronunciation changed the entire word. For example, if a teacher misheard something at the time of admission or the sub-divisional magistrate got the spelling wrong at the time of issuance, it just stuck," says G.M. Jha, a former Deputy Director at the TRTI headquartered in Nawa Raipur.

P.L. Sidar, president, Chhattisgarh Sawar Sawara Samaj Sangh and and one of the key figures of this campaign for inclusion of synonyms, explains: "Saunra and Saonra have been approved as synonyms of Sawar and Sawara. We are a tribe that is native to the eastern districts such as Raigarh or Mahasamund and we had better exposure due to education because of our lands falling on important train and bus routes. There are nearly 3 lakh Sawaras and we are numerically the second-largest group after Gonds. However, we are the ones most affected."

Mr. Sidar said all such communities endured countless "trials and tribulations" for over a decade and a half.

He explains how a "non-issue" turned into a big stumbling block due to officials' lack of understanding and indifference. "Articles 342 (1) and (2) of the Constitution give clear direction on who is deemed to be an ST and who can be included. However, around 2004, the then director of the TRTI issued a book that wrongly interpreted a Supreme Court order and the terms 'synonym' and 'synonymous' in it. This then became a reference point for officials across districts and they started rejecting applications with spelling variations that stemmed from phonetic variations. Often, the poor and illiterate tribals would have no recourse against outright rejection or intense scrutiny even if their case was genuine. They would abandon the pursuit altogether," says Mr. Sidar.

Uday Pando, the regional president of Sarva Vishesh Pichhdi Janjati Samaj Chhattisgarh Pradesh, adds that community leaders started recognising this problem in the mid-2000s and approached the State Scheduled Tribes Commission, the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes and regularly interacted with Ministers and MPs to highlight it.

Mr. Pando hails from the Pando tribe that is native to the Sarguja region and is among the 11 whose spelling variations had been listed by the Centre recently. However, the rectification was not easy as there were no clear guidelines for anthropological and ethnographic studies until 2013, adds Mr. Sidar.

Nitish does not stand a chance in Uttar Pradesh, says Maurya

MAYANK KUMAR
LUCKNOW

Amid indications by the Janata Dal(U) that its leader Nitish Kumar may contest the Phulpur Lok Sabha seat in Uttar Pradesh in the 2024 election, the ruling BJP said the Bihar Chief Minister stood no chance in the State.

Talking to mediapersons in Unnao, Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya said, "In the 2014 Lok Sabha poll, Nitish Kumar was able to win two seats. His seat share increased due to Narendra Modi; without the BJP, he cannot even win in Bihar, forget Uttar Pradesh. In fact, he will not open his account here."

Interestingly, Mr. Maurya had won the Phulpur seat in 2014. He quit the seat after becoming Deputy Chief Minister in 2017. The seat has been represented by Jawaharlal Nehru and Vishwanath Pratap Singh in the past.

The speculation about Mr. Kumar's candidature from Uttar Pradesh comes at a time when a large banner at the Samajwadi Party (SP) headquarters in Lucknow reads, "UP+Bihar = Gayi Modi Sarkar" with photos of Mr. Kumar with SP national president Akhilesh Yadav. The Bihar Chief Minister had earlier met Mr. Yadav and his father Mulayam Singh in Delhi amid attempts to forge a national alternative against the BJP.

On Friday, JD(U)'s national president Rajiv Ranjan Singh said that supporters in Uttar Pradesh were urging Mr. Kumar to contest from the State. "The decision on whether Nitish*ji* will contest the Lok Sabha election will be made at the appropriate time. Party members are urging him to contest from Phulpur and even from Mirzapur and Ambedkar Nagar."

The Kurmi community, to which Mr. Kumar belongs, has a sizeable presence across 15 parliamentary segments in eastern and central regions of the State.

TAMIL NADU MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD.
(A Government of Tamilnadu Undertaking)
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Website: www.tnmsc.tn.gov.in, E-mail: mngrpurdrug.tnmsc@tn.gov.in, gmdrug.tnmsc@tn.gov.in

Sealed Tenders are invited by the Tender Inviting Authority, TNMSC Ltd., from the bidders meeting the eligibility criteria in the tender document for the supply of **Blood Bags** to Tamil Nadu State Blood Transfusion council under rate contract system for one year from the date of acceptance.

Tender Reference No.	018/M(P)/RE-BLOOD BAGS/ TNMSC/2022, Dated.19.09.2022
Tender Document Sale Period	19.09.2022 to 06.10.2022
Last Date and Time for receipt of tender	07.10.2022 upto 11.00 AM
Date and time of opening	07.10.2022 at 11.30 AM

The tender document can be downloaded from the websites of **www.tnmsc.tn.gov.in** and **www.tenders.tn.gov.in** on free of cost.

DPP/ 4146 /TENDER/2022

General Manager (Drugs)

'Time for increased action against COVID'

WHO Chief Scientist stresses increasing vaccination, testing and sequencing to spot new variants

RAMYA KANNAN
CHENNAI

In light of the World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus' declaration that the end of the COVID-19 pandemic is nigh and with nations wondering whether they can let their guard down and resume 'normalcy' as it existed pre-pandemic, WHO's Chief Scientist Soumya Swaminathan clarified on the points made by Dr. Tedros in his speech and underlined the importance of not letting up efforts just yet.

"What Dr. Tedros actually said was: 'We have never been in a better position to end the pandemic. We are not there yet, but the end is in sight. If we don't take this opportunity now, we run the risk of more variants, more deaths, more disruption, and more uncertainty.' He also made the point that governments must increase efforts now so we can reach the end. Thus, he was actually saying governments must do the opposite of 'letting down their guard'. Now we need to be increasing our guard – particularly increasing vaccination, surveillance testing, genomic sequencing to spot new variants," Dr. Swaminathan explained.

> We are not approaching a situation where COVID-19 is becoming a seasonal virus. There is high transmission in all parts of the world currently, regardless of season
>
> SOUMYA SWAMINATHAN
> Chief Scientist, WHO

"We are not approaching a situation where COVID is becoming a seasonal virus. There is high transmission in all parts of the world currently, regardless of season. And as much mentioned above, it is critical that we persist with, and strengthen, the public health prevention methods that we know work," she further clarified.

Dr. Swaminathan drew attention to the six policy briefs that the WHO released last week to help countries update their policies and strengthen the response to COVID-19. "As the Director-General said: 'These policy briefs are an urgent call for governments to take a hard look at their policies and strengthen them for COVID-19 and future pathogens with pandemic potential'."

WHO recommendations

The briefs are based on existing WHO recommendations from previously published guidance, and outline the critical elements needed to end the COVID-19 emergency, including vaccinating the highest risk groups, maintaining strong surveillance, testing and sequencing, ensuring early clinical care, the targeted use of public health and social measures, including isolation of cases.

They also provide guidance on use of masks, distancing, ventilation and cleaning hands, and enabling communities with clear and open communication, and tackling the 'infodemic'. "Further, we know how to treat cases now and have drugs to prevent severe disease in the most high risk groups," she said.

Another critical role that nations have to play is in the area of vaccinations. "It is critical that all countries vaccinate 100% of people in high risk groups. A third dose is needed in these groups to offer maximum protection. We have seen that with waning immunity, there is a risk of infection or re-infection with new Omicron sub-variants. However, protection against severe disease seems to be robust and longer lasting, so, even if people get infected, they will not land in hospital," she said. As far as repurposing health infrastructure that nations have created to fight COVID-19 goes, Dr. Swaminathan said the question does not arise.

In fact, the briefs underline the need for sustained financing and a trained, protected and respected workforce to maintain these life-saving actions in the context of competing health and non-health emergencies. Additionally, they recognise the need to strengthen the acute and longer-term response for COVID-19 in relation to other pressing public health issues. She spoke of the need to pay attention to long COVID. "We are learning more about the long-term complications of COVID and the need to have clinical infrastructure in place to deal with the cardiac, neurological, metabolic and mental health sequelae of infection," she said.

She stressed that research into all aspects of COVID would continue to be a crucial part of the response and must additionally be supported and strengthened.

"The virus is continually adapting and staying one step ahead of us. Research into broad spectrum antivirals and pan-coronavirus vaccines is very important. Further, we need to promote coordinated interdisciplinary research into zoonotic diseases that can give rise to the next pandemic, and develop countermeasures that are quickly repurposable," Dr. Swaminathan said.

Frankfurt-New Delhi flight leaves without Punjab CM

Mann arrived at airport, but his return was rescheduled

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI/CHANDIGARH

In a last-minute change, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann rescheduled his return journey from Frankfurt to Delhi on Sunday.

He was on a trip to Germany from September 11 to 18 to attract investments and strategic tie-ups in various sectors. Now, he will be returning on Monday. "The Punjab Chief Minister has delayed his departure as he was reportedly unwell," an official said.

A State government source confirmed to *The Hindu* that Mr. Mann did not board the flight as per the fixed schedule. Mr. Mann, along with the team of officials, was dropped at the Frankfurt airport by cabs. However, after he was dropped, the India consulate reportedly informed the cab staff to pick up the Chief Minister from the airport as he did not board the aeroplane, the source said.

Asked about the issue, Chander Suta Dogra, the director of media communication of Punjab's ruling party Aam Aadmi Party, said: "Mr. Mann was a little unwell and would catch a flight later tonight from Frankfurt and would be back."

Lufthansa flight LH 760 was scheduled to depart at 1.40 p.m. local time from Frankfurt. It was already delayed by "three hours" because of a late inbound flight and an aircraft change, but was further delayed because of a heated exchange between some passengers and the cabin crew, according to a witness.

"A person donning a white kurta-pyjama and resembling Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann entered the aircraft along with other passengers... after some time four or five of them left the aircraft," said an eyewitness who did not want to be identified.

The pilot later announced that some passengers had to leave and that there would be a slight delay as their baggage was being removed from the plane. The flight scheduled to depart at 1.40 p.m. local time took off at 4.30 p.m. and landed in Delhi at 4.40 a.m. IST.

"Our flight from Frankfurt to Delhi departed later than originally planned due to a delayed inbound flight and an aircraft change. For data protection reasons, we do not provide any information regarding individual passengers," a Lufthansa spokesperson said.

Mr. Mann's visit starting September 11 was to attract investments and strategic tie-ups in sectors such as renewable energy, car manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, and advanced agricultural practices.

Navneet Wadhwa, media in-charge of the Chief Minister's office, said while no specific time was mentioned in the itinerary, Mr. Mann's departure from Frankfurt to India was slated for September 18.

Kinnow orchards shrink, price of fruit set to rise

Farmers lament dip in production due to polluted water

A.M. JIGEESH
FAZILKA

Prepare to pay more for the sweet and juicy kinnows this winter. The harvest of the citrus fruit, a hybrid between king (*Citrus nobilis*) and willowleaf (*Citrus deliciosa*) mandarins, is likely to witness a drop of about 50% due to many issues, including the early summer that hit Punjab in March.

No longer juicy: A farmer harvesting kinnows on a farm on the outskirts of Faridkot in Punjab. • FILE PHOTO

Fazilka in Punjab is known for the best-quality kinnow. The fruit is grown on about 2.5 lakh acres in the district. Trees and orchards on about 50,000 acres have been estimated as destroyed in the district alone. "The trees and orchards have dried up in this area. The reason is polluted canal water. Groundwater cannot be used for kinnow. Canal water is polluted with chemicals from factories. We have been facing issue for the past four or five years. When water is released to canals in April, it is getting mixed with polluted water. Such a major loss has happened for the first time," said Rajinder Singh Sekhon, who has won thrice the best kinnow farmer award given by the State and Punjab Agriculture University.

On the 13 acres of kinnow under his care, Mr. Sekhon lost the trees in about six acres. "Earlier, the production was about 2,000 quintals from 13 acres. This time, I am expecting just 400 quintals. The harvest will begin in December and continue till March. My expense for one acre is about ₹25,000," he said.

The farmers are expecting a production loss of about 75%. While the fruit fetched the farmers ₹10-15 a kg so far, they have been offered ₹30-35 a kg now. However, this may still not help recover the expenses, Mr. Sekhon said.

H.S. Rattanpal, Head of the Department of Fruit Science, Punjab Agriculture University, said there were two reasons for the decrease. "The early summer and increase in temperature in March resulted in fruits and flower shedding. Second, in areas such as Fazilka, canals broke, creating water stress and water logging. We expect a 40% to 50% decrease in production. As a result, consumers may have to pay more for kinnow this time," Dr. Rattanpal said, adding that the decrease in production could be higher in southern Punjab.

Bharatiya Kisan Union (Ekta Ugrahan) Fazilka district president Gurbhej Rohiwala said water scarcity and polluted water destroyed many orchards. "Our estimate is that the district will see a decrease of 35% in kinnow production. We have demanded a solution for the polluted water and compensation for farmers. Small farmers, who have land holding below five acres, suffered the most," he said.

Punjab farmers demand aid to stop stubble burning

They want AAP govt. to pay for alternative disposal methods; 14 incidents have been reported so far

VIKAS VASUDEVA
CHANDIGARH

As the harvesting of paddy has started in parts of Punjab, the six-month-old Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government is all set to face the stiff challenge of dealing with the perennial issue of stubble burning, with farmers indicating that they will continue to burn paddy stubble unless government suitably compensates them for the expenses incurred on alternative methods of disposing of crop residue.

Perennial problem: A farmer burning paddy stubble on a farm at a village on the outskirts of Amritsar. • FILE PHOTO

Close to the autumn season every year, stubble burning remains a contributing factor to pollution in the air, especially across the country's northern region, and the AAP, which is in power in Delhi, has over the years invariably blamed Punjab for its air pollution during the month. This year, however, with AAP governments in Delhi and Punjab, resorting to the blame game may just not be an easy way for the party. While the paddy harvesting is yet to pick up in Punjab, so far 14 stubble-burning incidents have been reported. Government data based on satellite imagery show that in the ongoing Kharif season till September 16, as many as 14 cases of farm fires have been reported in the districts of Amritsar (11) and Tarn Taran (three).

Several farmer unions are up in arms against the government, demanding suitable monetary compensation for the expenses incurred on alternative methods of disposing crop residue.

"We are not in favour of stubble burning but then there should be a viable option. It's not out of choice, but out of compulsion that farmers have to burn the stubble. The government has been in power for six months now and they were very well aware of the stubble burning issue, but so far no concrete solution could be seen on the ground," Jagmohan Singh, general secretary of Bhartiya Kisan Union Ekta (Dakaunda), told *The Hindu*.

"We should be given a bonus of at least ₹100 a quintal on paddy or paid ₹2,500 an acre in connection with the ban on stubble burning," Mr. Singh said.

On September 16, Agriculture Minister Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal held a meeting with district agriculture officers to discuss a blueprint to control stubble burning. He said that to control the issue, concrete steps such as providing agriculture implements on subsidies to farmers, running awareness campaigns and some new scientific methods such as decomposer spray are being adopted to stop the practice in the State.

Railways detects fraudulent withdrawal of PF money

Alert issued across zones to rule out similar cases

S. VIJAY KUMAR
CHENNAI

After fraudulent withdrawal of funds from Provident Fund accounts was detected and reported by one of the Zonal Railways, the Ministry of Railways has issued an alert calling for special checks across the railway administration to rule out similar embezzlement.

According to railway sources, the *modus operandi* of the suspects was to remit unlinked amount lying in the account of the unit in the ledger accounts of some working employees. They would then create fake documents and withdraw funds from the PF account of the employees.

Lack of scrutiny

Preliminary investigation revealed that non-implementation of the instruction for countersigning of journal vouchers above ₹1 lakh by a junior administrative grade officer, internal checks not being conducted at prescribed intervals, lack of proper scrutiny of unlinked balances and suspense heads and sharing of login credentials along with one time password were some of the factors that facilitated the fraud.

Soon after the scam was exposed, the Railway Board issued an alert to the Principal Financial Advisers of all Zonal Railways and production units informing them that all journal vouchers produced within a unit, which are not supported by transfer transaction certificate, will only be accepted in the Integrated Payroll and Accounting System with the digital signature of the accounts officer. The alert also directed the authorities concerned to ensure the implementation of an earlier Railway Board order, which issued on October 27, 2021, to prevent such frauds.

The heads of departments were told to sensitise employees not to share their credentials since it would enable such withdrawals from their accounts. The alert, which did not specify the quantum of fraudulent withdrawal or the place where it occurred, said further probe is on and called for an action taken report.

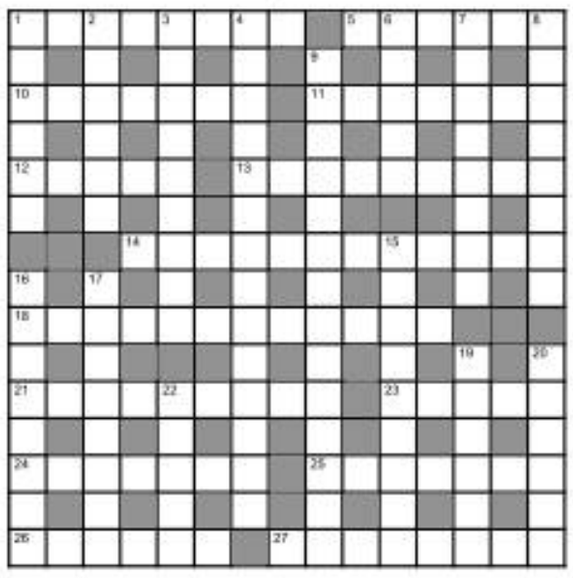
A couple of years ago, an official of the Central Railway was held on charges of allegedly siphoning off ₹70 lakh from PF accounts of railway employees, sources said.

THE HINDU CROSSWORD + 13664

(set by Dr. X)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN



Across

1 Comfortable clothes, popular for picnic (8)
5 Upset by couple of fellows breaking regulation (6)
10 Native American hut in hamlet, one in a higher position (7)
11 Centre hosting full moon party, close to Phuket presumably (2,5)
12 Blow up as fool gets noisy (2,3)
13 Endless ruckus by deranged radical (9)
14 What chauffeur might do to deceive? (4,3,1,4)
18 Particle physics concept is incorrect, trying other ideas finally (6,6)
21 Rising in an excited state, arousing date in bed (4,5)
23 Priest avoiding extremes of avarice perhaps (5)
24 In my opinion, embodies ancient painting technique (7)
25 Greek character purloins mobile, runs away (7)
26 Striking Oslo workers conducting a form of industrial action (2-4)
27 Give up or reduce consuming dope on reflection (8)

Down

1 Waste most of fixed allowance (6)
2 Mexican dish in container returned by emcee unfinished (6)
3 Master thief turned into murderer (9)
4 Envy after record-breaking part in picture (14)
6 Dancing nude around university is excessive (5)
7 Female losing equilibrium finally fell in well (8)
8 Acclaimed former editor takes charge (8)
9 Completely dominated, he's turned on perhaps by spanking bum (5,4,5)
15 Social climber in French Riviera, excited to entertain starlet on vacation (9)
16 Preparing hot, spicy stew – extremely nourishing (8)
17 Wins, waves shirt without hesitation – a bit of payback (8)
19 Brief inspection to tackle problem in plant (6)
20 Breaking record – sportsperson's ultimate dream (6)
22 Detective consequently seizes cocaine in nightclub (5)

SUDOKU

	4	6			3			5
2				6	8	7		
		9		5			8	
6			1					
	9						3	
					2			6
	3			1		4		
		5	8	2				7
4			3			5	1	

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to puzzle 13663

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

6	4	8	1	7	9	5	3	2
9	7	1	2	3	5	6	8	4
5	2	3	8	6	4	7	1	9
8	6	5	3	2	1	9	4	7
2	1	9	4	8	7	3	6	5
4	3	7	9	5	6	1	2	8
1	8	2	5	9	3	4	7	6
7	5	4	6	1	2	8	9	3
3	9	6	7	4	8	2	5	1

FAITH

Rama, the sole protector

Rama is the embodiment of dharma and the Ramayana is the handbook on dharma in practice. Dharma is considered the highest principle that supports all things in the universe. Valmiki clarifies on Rama's commitment to dharma in a verse wherein it is said Rama is the sole protector of all beings in the universe, and a staunch defender of His own dharma, faith, virtue and principles. He is the protector of all those who seek His refuge. When Rama entered Dandakaranya, the rishis were overwhelmed by His presence and it is said they experienced Brahma Anubhuti on seeing Him, pointed out Sri B. Damodhara Dikshitar in a discourse.

But the forest was also the home for the rakshasas who lived on human flesh, and in their wily ways caused obstruction to the meditative life of the sages. As for Rama, Sita and Lakshmana, they cherished the divine and sacred atmosphere of the whole area purified by the performance of yagas and by the chanting of Vedic hymns. The sages received and honoured their guests with great warmth and offered their humble hospitality with fruits, flowers and water. They also sought Rama's protection from the atrocities of the demons who constantly thwarted their yagas.

They told Him, 'Whether in Ayodhya or in forest, You alone can save us. Our mission is to live in peace by meditating on Brahman. We train ourselves to overcome anger and to control our senses. We do not desire a life of material comfort. Neither can we fight nor retaliate the acts of aggression on us caused by demons. Our only strength is our penance and if we use it against them, we lose whatever we have gained by it. We are helpless like the foetus in mother's womb that cannot protect itself. It is your duty to protect us from the dangers." Rama promises to protect them.

ASK US

Q. How can I invest in tax-free infrastructure bonds, especially municipal bonds? What are the benefits? Is it a good investment option? What all should one consider before investing in them?

JAYASHREE (NAME CHANGED ON REQUEST)

Vidya Bala: These bonds are typically bought in the secondary market or through dealers. You need to remember that investing in any bond is a matter of getting the timing right in the interest-rate cycle. The interest rate, or coupon rate, is not the right indicator when you buy bonds in the secondary market.

You need to know the yield (the returns from the bond on the price at which you buy). For this, you need to know whether you are buying at an attractive yield. When market rates go up, yields also go up, causing a price correction in the bond and thus providing entry points for buy-and-hold investors.

For those trading in it, one needs to time it at peak yields so that a rate fall will cause the price of the bond to rally. If you are looking for income options, it is easier for you to look at government securities and State development loans through auctions held in the RBI Retail Direct portal.

Q. While calculating 80G deduction, can I ignore PPF interest?

T.K. KANNAN

N. Sree Kanth: It is provided in Section 80G of the Income Tax Act, 1961, that the gross total income is to be reduced by any portion thereof on which income tax is not payable under any provisions of this Act and by any amount in respect of which the assessee is entitled to a deduction under any other provision of Chapter VI A.

Hence, for the purposes of computation of gross total income under Section 80G of the Income Tax Act, 1961, PPF interest which is exempt in nature, is to be excluded.

Q. Please give the details of treating income from house property while filing I-T returns. Please also include the details of some latest changes on having two houses in terms of tax.

RAVICHANDRAN

A. Income from House Property is broadly divided into Self-Occupied house property, Let Out house property and Deemed to be Let Out house property.

Self-Occupied house property is residential property occupied by the assessee as their residence. Let Out house property is a residential or commercial property let out for tenancy by the assessee and deriving rent from the letting out of such property. A house property will be treated as a deemed to be let out house property if an assessee has more than two residential properties whereby neither is rented out. Previously an assessee can claim only one property as self-occupied.

Gross Annual Value (GAV) is to be determined for house property while determining your taxable income. In case of Self-Occupied property it is considered to be NIL. For Let Out property, the GAV will be the higher of rent actually received from such property or a sum which the property might reasonably be expected to receive as rent.

However owing to vacancy (full year or part year), if rent so received is lower than the rent expected to be received, then actual rent received will be considered, which can also be NIL if it is vacant for the full year. In case of Deemed to be Let Out house property, the amount expected to be received will be the GAV.

GAV can be reduced by the property and municipal taxes paid in that assessment year. GAV minus property and municipal taxes paid is Net Annual Value (NAV). A standard deduction of 30% of the NAV is allowed irrespective of the amount incurred for repairs and maintenance.

However these deductions can be claimed only for Let Out and Deemed to be Let Out house properties only.

Interest paid on housing loan can be deducted for both Self-Occupied, Let Out and Deemed to be Let Out house properties. It is to be noted that interest on housing loan can be claimed only for completed house properties only. Pre-construction interest can be claimed once the house property is completed and be claimed in 5 equal instalments each assessment year.

In case of Self-Occupied house properties, deduction in respect of interest paid on housing loan will lead to a negative income which can be adjusted against other heads of income.

Whereas the same may or may not occur in Let Out house properties depending on the rent received. In either cases, the loss shall be restricted to ₹2,00,000 under this head of income.

(Vidya Bala is Co-founder, Primeinvestor.in and N. Sree Kanth is Partner, GSS and Associates, Chartered Accountants, Chennai)

Readers can e-mail queries on personal finance and investing to the moneywise@thehindu.co.in ID. The experts on personal finance will answer select queries. Moneywise will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund scheme, share or fixed deposit.

Take cover before it starts raining

A suitable insurance plan can ensure financial protection for your house during the monsoon

T.A. RAMALINGAM

After the long, scorching summer heat, the southwest monsoon have brought many parts of the country much-needed respite and freshness.

While the cool monsoon breeze and rains bring joy to our lives, it also brings its own risks. Even as other parts of the country await the northeast monsoon, one major concern for most people during the monsoon is the damage that heavy rains may cause to their houses and belongings.

Each year, various parts of the country witness floods, inundations, storms, landslides, and other natural calamities.

If the monsoon makes you worry about the safety of your home, then there exists a simple solution – home insurance. Home insurance covers the policyholders against unforeseen loss or damage to their house and contents therein.

Financial protection

Such a policy ensures that the insured has financial protection if anything happens to their home. Apart from covering natural calamities, home insurance also covers losses arising out of fire and allied perils, theft and burglary; it also covers the breakdown of domestic appliances due to voltage fluctuations as also accidental damages.

One can insure their flat, apartment, independent building, or villa. Broadly speaking, home insurance covers the following two aspects:

Building-only cover: This covers the building or structure of the house.

Content-only cover: This covers all the belongings or content present in the house such as furniture, appliances, jewellery and valuable items.

The insured has the liberty to buy cover for building-only or content-only or both. However, it is advisable to opt for a comprehensive cover, which includes both building and content, to get complete protection for one's home.

Home insurance also covers loss arising out of fire, allied perils, theft and burglary, breakdown of domestic appliances and accidental damages

If someone lives in a rented house, they can consider buying a 'content-only cover,' which will help the insured protect all their valuable belongings. If you own a flat in a society, then too it is prudent to cover the flat with individual home insurance to make sure one is duly covered during a time of need.

Valuation options

The insured has the freedom to choose among three types of valuation to arrive at the sum insured for the building – reinstatement value basis, indemnity value basis and agreed value basis.

Reinstatement value: the claim is settled by repairing, reinstating, or replacing damaged assets/property with a new one to a condition that is equal to but is not better than the condition of the assets when it was new. The liability of the insurer will be limited to the sum insured.

Indemnity value: the claim is settled by compensating the insured as per the market value of the assets/property after deducting the deprecated value.

Agreed value: The claim is settled as per the value agreed between the insurer and insured at the beginning of the policy period. This is only applicable to a flat or apartment.

Accurate estimation

While assessing the value of the property, it is sensible to take the help of an expert to obtain accurate estimation for the property.

The insured should give the exact details related to the property, such as size, location, floor plan and height of the building, to name a few.

For covering the content, one has to give the approximate value of the contents present. A valuation certificate for jewellery and gold items will also help the insured to accurately assess their worth.

If the insured acquires new assets such as electronic items or other valuable items they wish to cover, they must inform the insurer; the new items can be easily covered by paying some additional premium.

Apart from the standard cover, insurers also offer many useful add-ons such as loss of rent, temporary resettlement cover, keys and lock replacement cover, public liability cover and lost wallet cover to name a few.

What do such policies not cover? Such policies do not cover wilful or intentional destruction to the assets, natural wear and tear, loss or damage to contents due to defective workmanship, or manufacturing defects of electrical appliances.

So, now that you understand the advantages of having home insurance and how it can help you protect your most valuable and important assets, it may be prudent to evaluate your needs and opt for home insurance.

(The writer is Chief Technical Officer, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance)

THINK INVESTOR: MINIMUM RETURNS

Determining the lowest acceptable return

MAR is the least post-tax compounded rate per annum at which your investments must grow to help you achieve a life goal

VENKATESH BANGARUSWAMY

Savings is one part of the equation that places you on the path to achieving your life goal. Earning the required return through appropriate investments is the other part. In this article, we discuss how to arrive at a required return for a life goal and why you ought to increase your savings through the time horizon for a goal.

Asset allocation

You need to determine several factors to achieve your life goal. First is the time horizon for a life goal. Second is the amount that you require to achieve that goal. Third is the amount that you can save each month to achieve the goal. And fourth, the expected asset-class returns on equity and bonds.

You can determine the required return to achieve a goal using these factors. Referred to as the minimum acceptable return (MAR), it is the minimum post-tax compounded return per annum at which your investments must grow to accumulate the required amount at the end of the time horizon for a life goal. The MAR is important because it determines your asset allocation. This refers to the proportion that you ought to invest in equity and bonds to achieve a life goal. Suppose your MAR is 8.4%.

Right mix: The proportion of equity and bonds in the portfolio should be such that the expected weighted average return of the portfolio equals the MAR. •GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

Based on an expected return of, say, 10.8% on equity and 4.05% on bonds, the asset allocation should be 65% equity and 35%. The proportion of equity and bonds in the portfolio should be such that the expected weighted average return of the portfolio equals the MAR.

Savings expansion

The MAR must be on a post-tax basis because the cash flow available to achieve your goal is after taxes.

The MAR will be constant through the time horizon for a life goal. The issue is that you cannot maintain the same asset allocation through a life goal.

Why? Recovering losses on your equity investments is more difficult than giving up gains. For instance, your investments must double to recover a 50% loss whereas a 33% decline in investments is enough to give up a 50% gain.

This means you cannot accumulate too much of unrealised gains in your portfolio earmarked for a life goal.

Also, you will have limited time to recover losses on your equity investments should a market crash occur closer to your goal deadline.

For these reasons, you should have a higher allocation for bonds when you are closer to the end of the time horizon for a life goal. Suppose you are pursuing a 10-year life goal and start with a 65/35 allocation to equity and bonds. From the sixth year, you should gradually cut your equity allocation and move towards bonds.

But this process will reduce the expected weighted average return on your portfolio, for, the expected returns on bonds are lower than that of equity.

So, the only way you can maintain your MAR and accumulate the target amount is to increase your savings. Increasing savings is easier said than done. After all, savings is a function of your current lifestyle requirement and your income.

Savings from salary raises

Fortunately, you can increase your savings without cutting your current consumption. How? Every year, your employer is likely to give you a salary raise. You can save a significant part of that raise (in addition to regular savings) to make-up for the decline in expected return on your portfolio. The proportion of equity in your portfolio is a function of two variables – the time horizon for a life goal and the importance of the goal.

Typically, the longer the time horizon, greater the ability to take risk. But the more important a goal is for your family's well-being, the lesser your ability to take risk. You should incorporate these factors into the asset allocation decision when pursuing your life goals.

(The writer offers training programmes for individuals to manage their personal investments)

Life insurance term plan premium

Male: 30 Years, Sum Insured - ₹1 crore, Cover up to - 70 Years

Insurance company	Plan name	Maximum cover up to (Years)	Annual premium ₹
LIC OF INDIA	Tech Term^^^	80	14,122
Aditya Birla Capital	Life Shield Plan	85	12,998
Aegon Life	iTerm Insurance Plan	100	9,114
Bajaj Allianz	Smart Protect Goal	85	10911
Bharti AXA	Premier Protect Plan	75	11,092**
Canara HSBC OBC	iSelect Star Term Plan	99	11,605
HDFC Life	Click2Protect Plus	85	12,601
ICICI Prudential	iProtect Smart	99	15,628
India First Life	e-Term Plan	80	8,260
Kotak Life Insurance	Kotak e-Term Plan	75	9,558
Max Life Insurance	Smart Term Plan	85	11,800***
PNB Met Life	Mera Term Plan Plus	99	12,272
Reliance Nippon Life	Digi Term	80	11,012
SBI Life	eShield	80	15,070
TATA AIA Life	Maha Raksha Supreme	100	12,980

^^^Maximum policy term is 40 years | Claim settlement ratio as per data provided by insurer

**Bharti AXA coverage upto 65 years for age 30 years

***Max Life offers additional 5% discount for first year

Health insurance premium

Insurer name	Key features	Plan names	Premium (₹)
Care Health	Day Care Treatments, Family Floater option, Health Checkups, No claim bonus, Restoration of cover, No claim bonus, No claim bonus, Pre and Post HospitalisationCoverage	NCB Super Premium, Core, Care with unlimited recharge, Care plus, Care Heart, Care with Enhance, Care with (NCB and PED Waive-off Rider), NCB Super Premium with UAR	10,069, 9,153, 9,840, 11,755, 14,195, 10,783, 11,442, 10,755
Niva Bupa Health	Day Care Treatments, Hospitalization at Home, Family Floater option, E-consultation, Alternate Medicine	Health ReAssure, Health Pulse Enhanced, Health Companion, Health Premia, Go Active	9,590, 10,161, 9,862, 16,436, 11,747
Star Health	Family Floater option, Restoration of cover, Wellness Benefits, Existing illness cover, Free health checkup	Medi Classic, Star Comprehensive, Young Star Gold Plan, Diabetes Safe Plan-B, Young Star Silver Plan	11,095, 11,476, 8,389, 19,122, 7,133
Aditya Birla Health	Cashless hospitals, Day Care Treatments, Day 1 coverage, Day 1 coverage, Day 1 coverage, Day 1 coverage, Day 1 coverage, Day 1 coverage, Day 1 coverage	Activ assure Diamond, Activ Health Platinum Enhanced, Activ Health Platinum Enhance (Diabetes), Activ Health Platinum Enhance (Asthma), Activ Health Plat. Enhance (Hypertension), Activ Health Platinum Essential, Activ Health Platinum Essential (Diabetes), Activ Health Platinum Enhance (Asthma), Activ Health Plat. Enhance (Hypertension)	7,919, 9,074, 17,912, 13,170, 19,889, 7,474, 15,072, 11,240, 16,587
Chola MS General	Day Care Treatments, Hospital Room Eligibility, Hospitalization at Home, Alternate Medicine	Flexi Health	7,807

For a 30-year-old male, non-smoker, for sum insured of ₹10 lakh living in a metro city

Insurer name	Key features	Plan names	Premium (₹)
Digit General	Pre and Post HospitalisationCoverage, Restoration of Cover, Alternate medicine (AYUSH)	Early Cover Option, Super care Option, Ultimate Option	8,064, 7,616, 8,393
Bajaj Allianz General	Hospital Room Eligibility, Wellness Benefits, Family Floater Option, No claim bonus	Individual Health Guard, Bajaj Health Guard - Platinum	12,212, 13,569
SBI General Insurance	Free health checkup	Arogya Supreme	13,180
Royal Sundaram General	Day Care Treatments, Hospitalization at Home, Hospital Room Eligibility, Alternate Medicine	Lifeline supreme	8,578
TATA AIG	Pre and Post Hospitalisation Coverage, Day Care Treatments, Hospitalization at Home, Free health checkup	Medicare, Medicare Premier	9,820, 12,176
New India Insurance	Restoration of cover, Day care Treatment	Individual Mediclaim Policy	9,416
Raheja QBE	Hospitalization at Home, Restoration of Cover, Hospital Room Eligibility	Health QuBE Basic, Health QuBE SuperSaver, Health QuBE Comprehensive	4,947, 4,011, 5,787
Edelweiss General	Day Care Treatments, Hospitalization at Home, Hospital Room Eligibility, Alternate Medicine	Edelweiss Health Insurance- Gold (Health 241 Add-on), Edelweiss Health Insurance Gold	10,916, 8,733
Liberty General	Day Care Treatments, Hospitalization at Home, Hospital Room Eligibility	Basic, Elite, Supreme	9,579, 10,777, 11,337
Oriental Insurance	Pre and Post Hospitalisation Coverage, Day Care Treatments, Hospitalization at Home	Individual Mediclaim Policy	12,684

Data as on Sept. 2, 2022
Source: CIC of India, www.policybazaar.com

Premium is calculated on the basis of age of insured member, location, plan type and sum insured
Health insurance covers medical expenses that arise due to an illness and benefits will be payable subject to the terms and conditions and exclusions of the policy

Death toll from clashes along Tajik-Kyrgyz border crosses 90

Both countries blame each other for violations following Friday's ceasefire

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BISHKEK

At least 94 people were killed in clashes between Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan this week, in the worst violence the countries have seen in years, while the international community called for calm.

The situation on the contested border between the two Central Asian neighbours was however calm on Sunday afternoon, according to Kyrgyz authorities.

Clashes regularly erupt between the two former Soviet republics, as around half their 970-km border is still to be demarcated.

Tajikistan said on Sunday that 35 of its citizens were killed, the first official death toll since armed clashes broke out on Wednesday.

Assessing damage: A man looking at a house damaged during fighting in Batken, southwestern Kyrgyzstan on Saturday. •AP

On its Facebook page, the Tajik Foreign Ministry reported 25 injured, including women and children.

The Ministry accused Kyrgyz soldiers of killing 12 people in a drone strike on a mosque, and six others in an attack against a school.

Meanwhile, Kyrgyzstan said on Sunday at least 59 people had died in the southern border region of Batken, and 144 had been injured.

Tens of thousands of people were evacuated from Kyrgyz border regions over the past days, according to NGOs.

This toll by far surpasses figures from April 2021, when clashes left 50 dead and raised fears of a large-scale conflict.

The two sides agreed a ceasefire on Friday and Tajikistan's President Emomali Rahmon met his Kyrgyz counterpart Sadyr Japarov at a summit in Uzbekistan.

But the two countries traded blame for ceasefire violations a few hours later.

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Sunday called for "no further escalation" between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan in phone calls with the leaders of the Central Asian nations.

27 killed as bus carrying people for quarantine in China crashes

The accident took place on a highway in Guizhou province

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BEIJING

Twenty-seven people died *en route* to a COVID-19 quarantine facility when their bus crashed in southwest China on Sunday, local authorities said, in the country's deadliest road accident this year.

The crash took place on a highway in rural Guizhou province when the vehicle carrying 47 people "flipped onto its side", Sandu county police said on social media.

Twenty people were being treated for injuries, the police said.

The Guizhou government said on Sunday that the vehicle was "transporting people linked to the epidemic to quarantine" from the provincial capital of Guiyang.

"At present, on-site rescue work is basically completed, the treatment of the injured and aftercare of the deceased are being carried out in an orderly manner, and the cause of the accident is under investigation," the local government said in a social media statement.

It was not clear whether the passengers were infected with COVID-19, close contacts, or living in the same building as virus patients.

Guizhou has seen more than 900 new infections in the past two days and Guiyang, home to six million people, was locked down earlier in September.

Photos shared widely on social media on Sunday showed a passenger bus, its top completely crumpled, being towed by a truck.

Another viral photo appeared to show the bus driving at night, with the driver and passengers wearing hazmat suits.

"This feeling can't simply be represented by lighting a candle and saying RIP," read one Weibo post with more than 15,000 likes.

Some people on social media used the accident to criticise China's unrelenting zero-COVID policy, which has often seen entire housing compounds of thousands relocated to purpose-built quarantine facilities, sometimes hundreds of km away. "What proof do you have that you won't be on that bus at night someday?" read one Weibo post with over 15,000 likes.

13 injured in clashes in Pak. procession

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LAHORE

Activists of a radical Islamist group attacked a Shia procession in Pakistan's Punjab province, leaving at least 13 people injured, police said on Sunday.

According to an FIR, the Shia procession was going to Imambargah (congregation hall) in Sialkot, about 130 km from Lahore, when a group of people armed with pistols, clubs and stones attacked the mourners.

"The Tehreek-i-Labbaik Pakistan leaders wanted that the Shia procession should not pass in front of their mosque cum seminary. The local Shias were determined to go to Imambargah by the same route they take every year," a police officer said on condition of anonymity.

Iranian woman's death sparks dress code debate

Calls for reining in 'morality policing'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
DUBAI

As Iran reels from a woman's death after her arrest by its "morality police", the Sunday front page of financial newspaper *Asia* declared: "Dear Mahsa, your name will become a symbol."

The police unit – responsible for enforcing Iran's strict dress code for women, notably the wearing of a headscarf in public – had already faced growing criticism in recent months over its excessive use of force.

The death of Mahsa Amini, 22, has reignited calls to rein in its actions against women suspected of violating the dress code, in effect since the 1979 Islamic revolution.

The day after her funeral, nearly all Iranian press dedicated their front pages to her story on Sunday.

"The nation has expressed its sorrow over Mahsa's sad death," stated the front page of ultra-conservative newspaper *Javan*.

Amini was on a visit with her family to the capital Tehran when she was detained on Tuesday. She was declared dead by state television on Friday after having spent three days in a coma.

Filmmakers, artists, and political and religious figures have taken to social media to express their anger against the morality police.

Powerful earthquake strikes Taiwan

People trapped as three-storey building collapses; part of a passenger train derails

ASSOCIATED PRESS
TAIPEI

A strong earthquake shook much of Taiwan on Sunday, toppling a three-story building and temporarily trapping four people inside, stranding about 400 tourists on a mountainside, and knocking part of a passenger train off its tracks.

The magnitude 6.8 quake was the largest among dozens that have rattled the island's southeastern coast since Saturday evening, when a 6.4 quake struck the same area. There were no immediate reports of serious injuries.

Most of the damage appeared to be north of the epicentre, which Taiwan's Central Weather Bureau said was in the town of Chishang at the relatively shallow depth of 7 km.

Joint effort: Firefighters moving a person during a rescue operation at the site of a collapsed building in Yuli. •AFP

The three-story building, which had a 7-11 convenience store on the ground floor and residences on the upper ones, collapsed in nearby Yuli town, the island's Central News Agency said.

The 70-year-old owner of the building and his wife were rescued first, but it took longer to get to a 39-year-old woman and her 5-year-old daughter.

A photo released by the Hualien city government showed the girl lying on a blanket and being handed down a metal ladder from the top of the debris by helmeted rescue workers in orange uniforms.

The top two stories of the building were left sprawled across a small street and onto the other side, with electricity wires pulled down by the fallen structure.

More than 7,000 households were reported without power in Yuli, and water pipes were also damaged.

Also in Yuli, a landslide trapped nearly 400 tourists on a mountain famous for the orange day lilies.

Debris from a falling canopy on a platform at Dongli station in Fuli town hit a passing train, derailing six bogies, the Central News Agency said.

Typhoon Nanmadol makes landfall in Japan

Millions of people urged to take shelter

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
TOKYO

Typhoon Nanmadol made landfall in southwestern Japan on Sunday night, as authorities urged millions of people to take shelter from the powerful storm's high winds and torrential rain.

The storm officially made landfall around 7 p.m. local time (1000 GMT) as its eye-wall arrived near Kagoshima city, the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) said.

It was packing gusts of up to 234 km per hour and had already dumped up to 500 mm of rain in less than 24 hours on parts of southwestern Kyushu region.

At least 20,000 people were spending the night in shelters in Kyushu's Kagoshima and Miyazaki prefectures, where the JMA has issued a rare "special warning" – an alert that is issued only when it forecasts conditions seen once in several decades.

"Please stay away from dangerous places, and please evacuate if you feel even the slightest hint of danger," Prime Minister Fumio Kishida tweeted after convening a government meeting. "Please move to safety while there is still light outside."

The JMA has warned the region could face "unprecedented" danger from high winds, storm surges and torrential rain."

SPORT

The end: Saurabh signals victory after claiming the last New Zealand-A wicket. •K. MURALI KUMAR

India-A pulls off a fine victory

Saurabh's five-for puts Carter's century in the shade

NZ-A IN INDIA

ASHWIN ACHAL
BENGALURU

Saurabh Kumar (5/103) struck gold to guide India-A to a 113-run win over New Zealand-A in the third and final 'Test' at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium here on Sunday. The home side claimed the series 1-0.

Left-arm spinner Saurabh, who attacked the stumps, finished with a nine-wicket match haul. His performance doubly impressive given that he shouldered the bulk of the duties in the absence of Rahul Chahar.

Leg-spinner Chahar left the field in the morning with an injury, and bowled just a single over for the day.

Joe Carter (111, 230b, 12x4, 1x6) battled hard for New Zealand-A. Carter was the ninth wicket to fall, when he charged at pacer Mukesh Kumar and lost his stumps. It was a rash shot, given that New Zealand-A was less than an hour away from saving the game.

Sarfaraz Khan, called to bowl to fill the gap left by Chahar, picked up two crucial middle-order wickets in Mark Chapman and Robert O'Donnell. While Chapman mishit a long hop, O'Donnell was pinned on the pads by a flat delivery.

That all five of Saurabh's wickets came through leg-befores was testament to his nagging accuracy. Batters were most vulnerable when stuck on the crease; a moment's indecision enough to be caught in front. A couple of New Zealanders were unhappy at being given out leg-before, indicating that they got some bat on it.

Fast bowler Umran Malik had trouble overstepping, delivering 10 no-balls in the second innings.

On Malik's transition from white-ball success to the red-ball game, India-A head coach Shitanshu Kotak said, "Umran has done well in the IPL and proven himself with the white ball. He is the quickest bowler in India. The selectors, (India senior head coach) Rahul (Dravid) *bhai*, (NCA director) V.V.S. Laxman and the BCCI have plans to develop Umran."

Kotak was all praise for Rajat Patidar, Tilak Verma and Mukesh Kumar, all of whom made their maiden India-A appearances.

Patidar was the standout batter, with scores of 176 and 109 not out. Tilak impressed with a 121 in the first match, while fast bowler Mukesh finished as the joint highest wicket-taker of the series alongside Saurabh (nine).

Skipper Priyank Panchal said Chahar did not have any major injury trouble. "Rahul has a niggle. He left the field because we did not want to take any chances, given that there is a long season ahead," Panchal said.

The scores: India-A: 293 & 359/7 decl.

NZ-A — 1st innings: 237.

NZ-A — 2nd innings: Rachin Ravindra lbw b Saurabh 12, Joe Carter b Mukesh 111, Joe Walker b Shardul 7, Dane Cleaver lbw b Saurabh 44, Mark Chapman c Mukesh b Sarfaraz 45, Robert O'Donnell lbw b Sarfaraz 19, Tom Bruce lbw b Saurabh 19, Sean Solia lbw b Saurabh 8, Cam Fletcher c Sarfaraz b Malik 13, Jacob Duffy lbw b Saurabh 4, Matthew Fisher (not out) 0; Extras (lb-5, w-1, nb-14): 20; Total (in 85.2 overs): 302.

Fall of wickets: 1-15, 2-30, 3-115, 4-197, 5-222, 6-253, 7-267, 8-290, 9-301.

India-A bowling: Thakur 18-5-44-1, Mukesh 15-3-39-1, Saurabh 27.2-3-103-5, Chahar 1-0-1-0, Malik 15-1-62-1, Sarfaraz 9-0-48-2.

Mulani's five-for gives West massive win

Central accepts the inevitable

DULEEP TROPHY

S. DIPAK RAGAV
COIMBATORE

Left-arm spinner Shams Mulani's five-wicket haul (5/72) took West Zone to a massive 279-run win over Central Zone on the final day of the Duleep Trophy semifinals at the Sri Ramakrishna College ground here on Sunday.

Chasing 501, Central resumed day four on 33 for two and was bowled out for 221.

Nightwatchman Kumar Kartikeya (39), who starred in the first innings with a five-wicket haul, showed what he can do with the bat.

He swept well against Mulani hitting him for a couple of boundaries before Atit Sheth went past his defence.

It was the opening West was looking for as Mulani then had Shubham Sharma caught behind and Chintan Gaja (3/49) removed Priyam Garg and skipper Karan Sharma.

Rinku shines

Rinku Singh (65) and Ashok Menaria, who came in as a concussion substitute for Venkatesh Iyer, stitched an 88-run stand for the seventh wicket.

The left-hander used his feet well to the spinners and punished anything short as he made a run-a-ball fifty.

After a 20-minute rain break, Mulani had Rinku caught at short-leg and the left-arm spinner then cleaned up the tail.

Shreyas Iyer, Priyank Panchal and Sarfaraz Khan will join West for the final while Shaw and Rahul Tripathi will play for India-A in the one-day series against New Zealand-A in Chennai.

The scores:

West Zone — 1st innings: 257.

Central Zone — 1st innings: 128.

West — 2nd innings: 371.

Central — 2nd innings: Himanshu Mantri c Gaja b Mulani 18, Yash Dube c Shaw b Gaja 14, Kumar Kartikeya b Sheth 39, Shubham Sharma c Het b Mulani 24, Karan Sharma c Het b Gaja 14, Priyam Garg lbw b Gaja 6, Rinku Singh c Jaffer b Mulani 65, Ashok Menaria (not out) 32, Ankit Rajpoot c Rahane b Unadkat 2, Gourav Yadav c Rahane b Mulani 0, Aniket Choudhary c Jaffer b Mulani 4; Extras (lb-1, w-2): 3; Total (in 57.1 overs): 221.

Fall of wickets: 1-22, 2-33, 3-97, 4-101, 5-108, 6-121, 7-209, 8-212, 9-213.

West bowling: Unadkat 13-2-44-1, Gaja 11-2-49-3, Kotian 9-1-35-0, Mulani 18.1-3-72-5, Sheth 6-0-20-1.

MoM: Prithvi Shaw.

Going, going...: Rajpoot edges one off Unadkat and Rahane prepares to accept the offering. •M. PERIASAMY

Bamboozled: Mandeep becomes one of Sai Kishore's 10 victims in the match. •R. RAGU

Imperious South strides into final

Teja's century sets up record win; North crumbles

S. DINAKAR
SALEM

Batters made guest appearances. On view was a shocking lack of character. Fed on a heavy diet of Twenty20 cricket and lacking the skill-set to survive on the fourth day surface here, save the admirable Yash Dhull, North tumbled to 94 all out.

It was abject surrender on Sunday by a team known for its fighting spirit.

With left-arm spinner Sai Kishore completing a 10-wicket match haul, South Zone swept aside North in the Duleep Trophy semifinals by a record 645 runs at the SCF ground after having set an impossible target of 740 in two sessions.

Powered by a brisk unbeaten 104 (120b, 7x4, 3x6) by Ravi Teja, South Zone declared at 316 for four.

Brilliant Dhull

It was all spin from South but Dhull was brilliant with his footwork, dancing down for expansive drives and lofted blows, cutting and defending with conviction.

The 19-year-old Dhull made a counter-attacking 59 (58b, 7x4, 1x6) and the rest of the team could put together a mere 35 more.

Nursing a groin strain that has also ruled him out of the India-New Zealand 'A' series, paceman Navdeep Saini did not come out to bat.

The South spin trio of Sai, K. Gowtham and Tanay Thyagarajan spun a web around the North batters.

Spinners' pride

Sai bowled North skipper Mandeep Singh with a beauty that turned away.

Thyagarajan, a steady left-arm spinner with sound basics, breached Dhruv Shorey's defence with turn.

And, Gowtham, turning one into Dhull, beat him in his forward defensive stroke. The three spinners shared nine wickets.

Earlier, pace-bowling all-rounder Teja stroked the ball crisply on either side of the wicket.

He has an uncomplicated approach where he is guided by natural instincts.

South will meet West in Coimbatore in the five-day final from September 21.

The scores:

South Zone — 1st innings: 630 for eight decl.

North Zone — 1st innings: 207.

South — 2nd innings: Rohan Kunnummal c sub b Sindhu 77, Mayank Agarwal b Dagar 64, T. Ravi Teja (not out) 104, B. Indrajith c & b Narang 12, Manish Pandey lbw b Narang 26, Ricky Bhui (not out) 21; Extras (b-8, lb-4): 12; Total (for four wkts. decl. in 65 overs): 316.

Fall of wickets: 1-124, 2-175, 3-200, 4-277.

North bowling: Dagar 13-0-59-1, Sindhu 23-2-114-1, Narang 22-0-102-2, Rana 3-0-9-0, Kaul 3-0-11-0, Shorey 1-0-9-0.

North Zone — 2nd innings: Yash Dhull b Gowtham 59, Manan Vohra c Mayank b Gowtham 11, Nishanth Sindhu c Thyagarajan b Sai Kishore 9, Dhruv Shorey b Thyagarajan 0, Mandeep Singh b Sai Kishore 0, Himanshu Rana c Bhui b Thyagarajan 0, Anmol Malhotra c Bhui b Sai Kishore 1, Pulkit Narang c Pandey b Thyagarajan 2, Mayank Dagar c Kunnummal b Gowtham 8, Siddharth Kaul (not out) 0, Navdeep Saini (absent hurt) 0; Extras (b-4): 4; Total (in 30.4 overs): 94.

Fall of wickets: 1-23, 2-64, 3-66, 4-66, 5-71, 6-72, 7-86, 8-94, 9-94.

South bowling: Gowtham 9.4-1-50-3, Sai Kishore 14-6-28-3, Thyagarajan 7-1-12-3.

MoM: Sai Kishore.

In full flow: Smriti firmly put the Indians on the victory path with a polished 91. • GETTY IMAGES

Smriti aces the chase as India wins opener

Harmanpreet and Yastika chip in with half-centuries; Jhulan makes an impact with parsimonious spell

INDIA IN ENG

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
HOVE

The graceful Smriti Mandhana once again enhanced her reputation as one of India's biggest match-winners with an attractive 91 that literally decimated England by seven wickets in the opening women's ODI here on Sunday.

Harmanpreet Kaur won a good toss and veteran India pacer Jhulan Goswami was accuracy personified with 42 dot balls in one of of her last international games as England managed a sub-par 227 for seven.

Never in trouble

India was never in trouble during the chase as Smriti (91, 99b, 10x4, 1x6) literally drove and pulled her way before missing out on a deserving sixth ODI hundred by nine runs.

But by the time she was dismissed, Smriti ensured a 45th-over finish for the Women In Blue.

Yastika Bhatia (50, 47b, 8x4, 1x6) also notched up her third half-century and scored at more than run-a-ball strike-rate.

Yastika-Smriti's second-wicket stand of 96 in just 16.1 overs set the foundation and then Harmanpreet (74 n.o., 94b, 7x4, 1x6) eased her way to a another fifty as she added 99 runs with her deputy and then finished it off in style with a slog-sweep six.

While both Yastika and Smriti drove majestically through the covers during the PowerPlay, the Indian vice-captain also played a lot of pull shots with English bowlers drifting down the leg-side.

Earlier, Jhulan, the 39-year-old legend, was parsimonious, giving away only 20 runs in 10 overs with as many as 42 dot balls.

She didn't concede a single boundary or six and also bowled a fine off-cutter to get rid of the seasoned Tammy Beaumont (7).

After seamer Meghna Singh (1/42) hurried the other opener Emma Lamb (12) with a short ball, Jhulan and the two spinners Deepti (2/33) and Gayakwad (1/40) choked the run flow consistently.

However, Sneh Rana and Pooja Vastrakar, along with Meghna, did leak a few runs as England put up a 220-plus score in the end.

SCOREBOARD

ENGLAND

Emma Lamb c Yastika b Meghna 12 *(26b, 2x4)*, Tammy Beaumont lbw b Jhulan 7 *(21b)*, Sophia Dunkley c Deepti b Harleen 29 *(52b, 3x4)*, Alice Capsey c Harmanpreet b Sneh 19 *(28b, 3x4)*, Danni Wyatt b Deepti 43 *(50b, 3x4)*, Amy Jones b Rajeshwari 3 *(10b)*, Alice Davidson-Richards (not out) 50 *(61b, 4x4)*, Sophie Ecclestone lbw b Deepti 31 *(33b, 4x4)*, Charlie Dean (not out) 24 *(21b, 2x4)*; Extras (b-2, w-5, nb-2): 9; Total (for seven wkts. in 50 overs) 227.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-20 (Lamb, 7.1 overs), 2-21 (Beaumont, 8.4), 3-64 (Capsey, 17.3), 4-88 (Dunkley, 24.3), 5-94 (Jones, 26.6), 6-128 (Wyatt, 33.2), 7-178 (Ecclestone, 42.5).

INDIA BOWLING

Jhulan 10-2-20-1, Meghna 8-0-42-1, Rajeshwari 10-0-40-1, Pooja 2-0-20-0, Sneh 6-0-45-1, Deepti 10-1-33-2, Harleen 4-0-25-1.

INDIA

Smriti Mandhana c Davidson-Richards b Cross 91 *(99b, 10x4, 1x6)*, Shafali Verma c Dean b Cross 1 *(6b)*, Yastika Bhatia b Dean 50 *(47b, 8x4, 1x6)*, Harmanpreet Kaur (not out) 74 *(94b, 7x4, 1x6)*, Harleen Deol (not out) 6 *(20b)*; Extras (lb-3, w-7): 10; Total (for three wkts. in 44.2 overs): 232.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-3 (Shafali, 1.3), 2-99 (Yastika, 17.4), 3-198 (Smriti, 36.3).

ENGLAND BOWLING

Wong 5-0-35-0, Cross 10-1-43-2, Davidson-Richards 7.2-0-48-0, Dean 10-0-45-1, Ecclestone 9-0-42-0, Lamb 3-0-16-0.

Toss: India; **MoM:** Smriti.

India won by seven wickets with 34 balls remaining to take a 1-0 lead in three-match series.

Second ODI: Sept. 21, Canterbury, 5.30 p.m. IST.

Rohit backs Rahul as his opening partner

India skipper describes Kohli as a 'third opener and definite option'

AUS IN INDIA

RAKESH RAO
MOHALI

Putting all speculations to rest, Rohit Sharma has categorically backed K.L. Rahul to be his first-choice opening partner and described Virat Kohli as a "third opener" and a "definite option".

Experimentation over

Speaking to the mediapersons here ahead of the three-match T20I series against Australia beginning on Tuesday, Rohit indicated that, with the T20 World Cup just over a month away, the time for experimentation with the team combination was over.

"Rahul will open the batting in the World Cup. We do not want to experiment with that position a lot. Sometimes, his performance goes quite unnoticed but we are very clear [on] what Rahul brings to the table.

Solid support: The presence of Rahul, left, at the top is crucial, feels Rohit. • AFP

He is a quality player and his presence at the top is very crucial for us."

About Kohli, Rohit said, "Virat is our third opener and he will open in some of the games. In the last match of the Asia Cup, we were happy with the way he played [as an opener].

"Since we have not taken a third opener..., Virat opens for his franchise in the IPL and he has done really well, so he is a definite option for us. It is always nice to have options and flexibility. You want the players to be in best shape batting at any position."

Talking about the last-minute inclusion of Umesh Yadav as a replacement for Mohammad Shami, who will miss the series after testing positive for Covid, Rohit said, "There were few options, but few of them are injured like Prasidh [Krishna], while Avesh Khan needs time to recover after being sick during the Asia Cup. [Mohammad] Siraj is playing for his County and we did not want him to fly all the way, for one or two games."

Australia knows what it takes to win in India

With many in visiting squad familiar with the conditions, hosts could find it tough

RAKESH RAO
MOHALI

Not many visiting teams appear as confident as Australia when it steps on the Indian turf. Notwithstanding India's envious record at home, across formats, the Australians have not lost a T20I series in their last two visits. The trend could continue for the World champion in the three-match T20I series beginning on Tuesday.

Even without a rested David Warner, there is no dearth of resources in this line-up. The seriousness of the Australian think-tank could be gauged from the fact that, initially, for this series, the selectors made only one change – Cameron Green for Warner – from the team for the World Cup.

But injuries to all-rounders Mitchell Starc, Mitchell Marsh and Marcus Stoinis forced the selectors to play safe. They named Daniel Sams, Sean Abbott and Nathan Ellis as replacements. Still, this team with five specialist batters, five all-rounders and five specialist bowlers has the looks of a winner.

Time for action: Left-arm spinner Agar will hope to be a roaring success on the Indian pitches. • AFP

No wonder, the selectors almost retained the 2021 World Cup-winning side with batter Tim David being the most talked-about inclusion.

Raised in Western Australia, David played 14 T20Is for Singapore. After creating a flutter in franchisee leagues all over the world, David was bought by Royal Challengers Bangalore before being acquired for ₹8.25 crore by Mumbai Indians in the auction last March.

Australia, having drawn the 2017-18 series 1-1 and won the 2018-19 clashes 2-0, is looking good to test India's preparedness for the World Cup. With many members of this Australian squad familiar with the conditions here due to their IPL experience, India could find it tough.

Players like skipper Aaron Finch, Steve Smith, Glenn Maxwell, Pat Cummins, Josh Hazlewood, Kane Richardson, etc. have spent enough time in India to know what it takes to succeed.

In the three matches spread over six days, the home team's batters face a formidable Aussie attack. Clearly, the home advantage looks miniscule when challenged by a balanced team like the one Australia has put together.

In the last World Cup, Australia did not start as the favourite but ended up as a champion. The team eyes something similar here.

IN BRIEF

Stimac set to continue as India coach

KOLKATA

Igor Stimac is set to continue as the Indian team coach after the All India Football Federation Technical Committee, on Sunday, recommended an extension of his contract till the end of the AFC Asian Cup in July next year. PTI

Facile win puts Arsenal on top

LONDON

Arsenal moved back to the top of the Premier League as goals from William Saliba, Gabriel Jesus and Fabio Vieira put the gloss on a dominant performance to beat Brentford 3-0. Monza won its first ever match in Serie A on Sunday after stunning 10-man Juventus 1-0 to pile more pressure on under-fire Massimiliano Allegri.

Vaishali holds Lagno

ASTANA

R. Vaishali made an impressive start to her campaign in the Women's Grand Prix when she drew with Russian Kateryna Lagno in 31 moves on Sunday. Vaishali, the second lowest-ranked player in the 12-player field, joined the fray after K. Humpy withdrew citing personal reasons.

Sudha Singh retires

NEW DELHI

Sudha Singh, the 36-year-old Indian distance runner, has decided to retire from competitive international athletics. Sudha is a two-time Olympian and Asian Games gold medallist. In the 2010 Asiad at Guangzhou, Sudha clocked 9:55.67 for the 3000m steeplechase gold.

Sivasakthi, Costa give BFC the crown

The side beats Mumbai City 2-1 to claim a memorable first

Shining bright: Bengaluru rose to the occasion with a spirited display. • DEBASISH BHADURI

DURAND CUP

AMITABHA DAS SHARMA
KOLKATA

A goal each from youngster N. Sivasakthi and the seasoned Alan Costa in either half set up a 2-1 victory for Bengaluru FC over ISL rival Mumbai City FC in the final of the 131st Durand Cup here on Sunday. It was the Bengaluru side's maiden title in the tournament. Lalengmawia Ralte (Apuia) found the target for Mumbai.

Bengaluru appeared well prepared for the big occasion, quickly springing into action.

It took the lead in the 10th minute when Sivasakthi won the battle with Murtada Fall, the towering Senegalese defender, before lobbing the ball over Mumbai City goalkeeper Phurba Lachenpa with a spectacular finish.

Mumbai City, trying to regroup, made a couple of unsuccessful attempts before finding the equaliser at the half-hour mark. Scottish striker Greg Stewart fired a rasping left-footer that was blocked by Bengaluru custodian Gurpreet Singh Sandhu. However, the rebound reached the feet of Apuia lurking close by and the midfielder made no mistake.

In the 61st minute, Bengaluru reestablished its lead when skipper Sunil Chhetri's corner kick set it up for the tall Alan Costa to nod home. Mumbai City had a good chance to equalise 15 minutes later, but substitute and Spanish midfielder Alberto Noguera saw his powerful shot from the edge of the penalty box bounce off the upright.

Bengaluru had an opportunity to increase its lead in the 87th minute, but Lachenpa's valiant save denied Chhetri. Despite Mumbai City's best efforts, the Bengaluru outfit held on for the remainder of the game.

The result (final): Mumbai City FC 1 (Lalengmawia Ralte 30) lost to Bengaluru FC 2 (Sivasakthi 10, Alan Costa 61).

Fruhvirtova caps dream run with maiden title

The 17-year-old claws back yet again, upstages Linette in the summit clash

CHENNAI OPEN

N. SUDARSHAN
CHENNAI

Linda Fruhvirtova survived a searing examination of her growing reputation as the next big Czech tennis star with a fine come-from-behind 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 victory over Magda Linette to clinch the WTA Chennai Open at the SDAT Tennis Stadium on Sunday.

The triumph was the 17-year-old's maiden Tour-level title as she became the youngest winner since Coco Gauff in 2021 (Parma) and the youngest Czech to do so since Nicole Vaidisova in 2006 (Strasbourg).

"I am pretty much in shock and don't have the right words," Fruhvirtova said on court, tearing up. "It's unbelievable. Again, great atmosphere to play in and something I will always remember."

A star is born: Fruhvirtova showcased her potential in eye-catching fashion. • R. RAVINDRAN

It was Fruhvirtova's second straight three-setter, and in the first set she seemed a step slower, having spent a good three hours more than Linette on court in this tournament.

Linette has a snappy feel to her game, a short backswing ending with a wristy flourish. She redirected Fruhvirtova's pace expertly and her athletic ability meant she ran down practically every ball.

A break in the ninth game and a fine hold after that – a drop and two superb kick serves doing the job – helped the 30-year-old take the first set 6-4. But in the second, the Pole relaxed and her serve went up and down.

She saved three break points in her first service game, held her next two losing a solitary point before coming under pressure in the fourth. Fruhvirtova hit a fierce return winner and finished on the right side of a mighty long rally to earn two break opportunities.

Linette sent a forehand long to go 3-5 down and soon the teenager levelled the match.

In the third set, Linette lifted her level again. Someone who beats Ash Barty and Ons Jabeur at a Grand Slam tournament isn't to be trifled with and she played some clinical tennis to go 4-1 up. But a medical timeout to nurse her right leg broke her rhythm and it was soon 4-4.

Fruhvirtova had rediscovered her aggressive touch, and egged on by a near-capacity crowd, she made the play, pressuring the Linette serve to go 30-15 up.

Her poise, staying power and lack of nerves were in full display as she hit a fine forehand winner to close out a lengthy rally.

A forced error from Linette sealed the break and made it 5-4, giving the Czech a chance to serve for the title. The Pole's last stand was to come up with two smashing return winners, but that was it.

Bajrang pips Rivera, bags a bronze

Bajrang. • FILE PHOTO

WRESTLING

SPORTS BUREAU

Bajrang Punia defeated Puerto Rico's Sebastian Rivera by the skin of his teeth in the 65kg bronze medal match to claim his fourth medal in the World wrestling championships in Belgrade on Sunday.

Bajrang, who picked up a head injury in the pre-quarterfinal bout and lost to American John Diakomihalis in the last eight before getting back to medal contention on Saturday, rallied from 0-6 down to record an 11-9 victory. It was his third bronze other than a silver.

After conceding six points inside 35 seconds, Bajrang fought back with a throw and a takedown to level the scores. Rivera regained the lead through another two-pointer in the first period and later extended it to 9-6.

Bajrang closed the gap and overtook Rivera through two takedowns. An unsuccessful video challenge from the Puerto Rican gifted Bajrang another point. Earlier, Bajrang erased a 0-4 deficit to register a 7-6 win over Individual World Cup winner Vazgen Tevanyan of Armenia in repechage round.

India bagged two bronze medals, including one by Vinesh Phogat, in this edition.

A special reunion for Stefani and Dabrowski

NIHIT SACHDEVA
CHENNAI

For Luisa Stefani, the Chennai Open ended her one-year injury layoff in the best possible way. The Brazilian, who has returned to play doubles with her Canadian friend Gabriela Dabrowski after suffering a knee injury in 2021, won the title with a 6-1, 6-2 win over the Russian-Georgian duo of Anna Blinkova and Natela Dzalamidze.

"It's really special to be playing together again. It's been a long year away from tennis, but to come back and play with Gaby, I couldn't ask for more. It's really nice to play together again on my first tournament back," the 25-year-old Brazilian had told *The Hindu* recently.

Stefani and Dabrowski... moment to savour. • R. RAVINDRAN

Though Stefani and Dabrowski were visiting India for the first time, they have a connection with the country. The latter won her maiden Grand Slam title in mixed doubles with Rohan Bopanna at the 2017 French Open. When Stefani won the bronze with Laura Pigossi at the Tokyo Olympics in 2021, Stefani's coach was Sanjay Singh, also Leander Paes' coach when the Indian bagged the bronze at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics.

Arya and Sandeep win a race each

In Novice Cup, Kyle signs off on a happy note winning the final race

JKNRC

RAYAN ROZARIO
COIMBATORE

Dark Don racing boys Arya Singh and Sandeep Kumar beat the heat and the challenge to win a race each in the premier Formula LGB4 class of the 25th JK Tyre FMSCI National Racing Championship at the Kari Motor Speedway here on Sunday.

After scoring a double win in the Novice Cup on the opening day, Chennai's Kyle Kumaran signed off on a happy note as well winning the final race in a commanding manner.

The reverse grid did test the Dubai-based youngster. Starting eighth in the opening race of the day, Kyle fought all the way through to seal the second spot on the podium. His city-mate Aadithya Parasuram, starting second took the top slot.

Terrific trio: Dark Don boys Arya, Sandeep and Ashwin were dominant in the LGB Formula 4 category. • S. SIVA SARAVANAN

The Endurance League, powered by United CRA, saw more action in the pit lane than on the track due to soaring temperatures. In the end, Abhishek Vasudev and Amarnath Meno won with a timing of 1:00:57.449.

The results (provisional):

LGB Formula 4: Race 1: Arya Singh (Dark Don Racing) 20:09.536, 2. Viswas Vijayaraj (Ahura Racing), 3. Tijil Rao (Dark Don).

Race 2: 1. Sandeep Kumar (Dark Don) 28:10.333, 2. Ashwin Datta (Dark Don), 3. Arya.

Novice Cup: Race 1: 1. Aadithya Parasuram (Hasten Performance) 15:19.654, 2. Kyle Kumaran (DTS Racing, 3. Dhruvh Goswami (MSport).

Race 2: Kyle 16:30.407, 2. Aadithya, 3. Vinith Kumar (DTS Racing).

Endurance League: 1. Abhishek Vasudev & Amarnath Meno 1:00:57.449, 2. Rakshith S. Dave & Mohammed Mikail, 3. Prathipathi Jayanth & S. Seshadri.

RE Continental GT Cup: Race 1: Pro: 1. Navaneeth Kumar 13:57.292, 2. Ullas Nanda, 3. Sudheer Sudhakar.

Amateur: 1. P.M. Soorya 14:05.893, 2. Varun Gowda, 3. R. Rohan.

Lovlina and Thapa in squad

BOXING

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

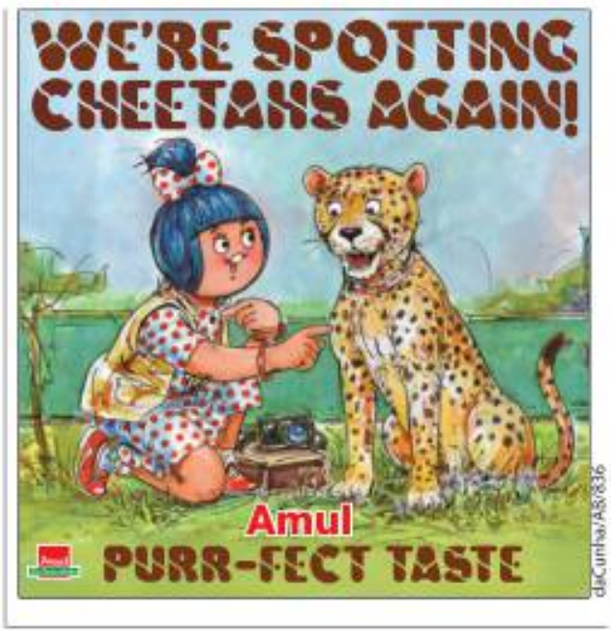
Olympic bronze medallist Lovlina Borgohain and multiple Asian medallist Shiva Thapa were the prominent boxers in the Indian team for the Asian championships to be held in Amman, Jordan, from October 30 to November 12.

While Lovlina, who competed in 70kg in the Commonwealth Games, moved up to 75kg with an eye on the 2024 Paris Olympics. Thapa stuck to 63.5kg in the trials which concluded at NIS Patiala on Saturday.

Commonwealth Games gold medallists Nitu Ghanghas (48kg), Nikhat Zareen (50kg) and Amit Panghal (51kg) skipped the trials. Amit and Nikhat took a break while Nitu couldn't take part in the trials owing to a shoulder injury, according to a Boxing Federation of India (BFI) source.

The squad: Men: Govind Sahani (48kg), Sparsh Kumar (51kg), Sachin (54kg), Mohammad Hussamuddin (57kg), Mohammed Etash Khan (60kg), Shiva Thapa (63.5kg), Amit Kumar (67kg), Sachin (71kg), Sumit Kundu (75kg), Lakshya Chahar (80kg), Kapil Pokharia (86kg), Naveen Kumar (92kg), Narender (+92kg).

Women: Monika (48kg), Savita (50kg), Minakshi (52kg), Sakshi (54kg), Preeti (57kg), Simranjit Kaur (60kg), Parveen Hooda (63kg), Ankushita Boro (66kg), Pooja (70kg), Lovlina Borgohain (75kg), Saweety Boora (81kg), Alfiya Pathan (+81kg).



Galwan primed to deliver in feature

HYDERABAD: Trainer L.V.R. Deshmukh's filly Galwan, who is in good condition, has an edge over her rivals in the Major Mir Mujtaba Hussain Memorial Cup, the feature event of Monday's (Sept. 19) races.

1 NEARCO PLATE (Div. I) (1,200m), (Terms) Maiden, 3-y-o only (Cat. II), 2.05 p.m.: 1. City Of Gravitas (8) Antony Raj 56, 2. Ivahnoe (3) P. Ajeeth Kumar 56, 3. Pancho (11) M. Madhu Babu 56, 4. Rovaniemi (4) Suraj Narredu 56, 5. Stay Smart (9) B. Nikhil 56, 6. Alina (10) P. Sai Kumar 54.5, 7. Avancia (7) A.A. Vikrant 54.5, 8. Clefairy (6) Akshay Kumar 54.5, 9. Ikra (1) Aneel 54.5, 10. Lights On (5) R.S. Jodha 54.5 and 11. Sweet Whisper (2) Nakhat Singh 54.5.

1. CLEFAIRY, 2. IVAHNOE, 3. ROVANIEMI

2 NEARCO PLATE (DIV. II) (1,200m), (Terms) Maiden, 3-y-o only (Cat. II), 2.40: 1. Good Day (5) Nakhat Singh 56, 2. La Mirage (10) A.A. Vikrant 56, 3. Protocol (4) Md. Ismail 56, 4. Samrat (1) Mohit Singh 56, 5. Wind Sprite (6) Akshay Kumar 56, 6. Humanitarian (2) Suraj Narredu 54.5, 7. N R I Fantasy (7) Antony Raj 54.5, 8. Sweet Dancer (9) Gaurav Singh 54.5, 9. Sweet Talk (3) Santosh Raj 54.5 and 10. Yaletown (8) Surya Prakash 54.5.

1. HUMANITARIAN, 2. WIND SPRITE, 3. YALETOWN

3 GIMCRACK PLATE (1,400m), 5-y-o & upward, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 3.15: 1. Mirana (10) Ashad Asbar 60, 2. Lamha (8) Akshay Kumar 59.5, 3. Mark My Day (7) Nakhat Singh 58, 4. Strategist (3) P. Ajeeth Kumar 57.5, 5. Makhtoob (9) Gaurav Singh 55, 6. Four One Four (11) Dashrath 54, 7. Royal Grace (2) Afroz Khan 53.5, 8. Sun Dancer (12) Kuldeep Singh 53.5, 9. Castlerock (4) G. Naresh 53, 10. Star Babe (1) Santosh Raj 52.5, 11. Angel Tesoro (6) P. Sai Kumar 51.5 and 12. Linewiler (5) P. Vikram 51.5.

1. LAMHA, 2. MIRANA, 3. ROYAL GRACE

4 BRONGER CUP (1,600m), 5-y-o & upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 3.50: 1. Beauty Flame (7) Santosh Raj 60, 2. Ice Berry (6) Gaurav Singh 56.5, 3. Explosive (2) P. Ajeeth Kumar 56, 4. Turning Wheel (5) Akshay Kumar 56, 5. Melting Ice (3) R.S. Jodha 54, 6. Forever Bond (4) Surya Prakash 53 and 7. Sorry Darling (1) Rafique Sk. 52.5.

1. TURNING WHEEL, 2. BEAUTY FLAME, 3. ICE BERRY

5 MAJOR MIR MUJTABA HUSSAIN MEMORIAL CUP (1,800m), rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 4.25: 1. N R I Sport (1) Antony Raj 60, 2. Akido (7) Kuldeep Singh 59.5, 3. Galwan (6) P. Ajeeth Kumar 59, 4. Francis Bacon (2) Surya Prakash 58, 5. Just Incredible (8) Aneel 55.5, 6. Wallop And Gallop (5) P. Sai Kumar 55, 7. True Icon (4) Gaurav Singh 54.5 and 8. Barbet (3) Akshay Kumar 50.5.

1. GALWAN, 2. BARBET, 3. N R I SPORT

6 NARAYANPET PLATE (1,200m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 5.00: 1. Gusty Note (10) Deepak Singh 60, 2. Malibu (1) Mukesh Kumar 59.5, 3. Classy Dame (7) R.S. Jodha 59, 4. N R I Millennium (8) Antony Raj 57, 5. Essential (11) Kiran Naidu 56.5, 6. Happy Go Lucky (2) Akshay Kumar 55, 7. Archangels (5) A.A. Vikrant 53.5, 8. Blazing Jupiter (3) Kuldeep Singh 53, 9. Plethora (4) Nakhat Singh 53, 10. Its On (12) D.S. Deora 52, 11. Doe A Deer (9) Dashrath 51.5 and 12. Wot's Up Jay (6) G. Naresh 50.5.

1. MALIBU, 2. CLASSY DAME, 3. HAPPY GO LUCKY

Day's Best: **TURNING WHEEL**
Jackpot: 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6.
Mini Jackpot: 3, 4, 5 & 6.
Treble: (i) 1, 2 & 3, (ii) 4, 5 & 6.
Tanala: All races.

Ashakiran breaks 800m meet record

Ashlin and Sakshi emerge the fastest

ATHLETICS

SPORTS BUREAU

Jharkhand's 15-year-old Ashakiran Barla, a semifinalist at last month's under-20 World championships in Colombia, broke the girls' 800m meet record in the 17th National youth athletics championships at Bhopal on Sunday.

Long jumper Mubssina Mohammed won Lakshwadeep's first National-level gold in athletics.

Kerala's Ashlin Alexander and Maharashtra's Sakshi Champalal Chavan emerged the fastest boy and girl of the championships, winning the 100m crowns while Kerala's P. Abhiram and Maharashtra's Isha Rajesh Jadhav were the fastest quartermilers.

The results (gold medallists only):

Boys: 100m: Ashlin Alexander (Ker) 10.87s. **400m:** P. Abhiram (Ker) 48.56s.

800m: Bopanna K. Thelapanda (Kar) 1:56.12s. **Pole vault:** Kuldeep Kumar (UP) 4.80m.

Discus: Atul (Har) 57.44m. **Decathlon:** A.S. Arvind (TN) 5392 points.

Girls: 100m: Sakshi C. Chavan (Mah) 12.22s.

400m: Isha Rajesh Jadhav (Mah) 55.39s. **800m:** Ashakiran Barla (Jha) 2:08.45s MR, OR 2:08.56. **High jump:** Pavana Nagaraj (Kar) 1.68m.

Long jump: Mubssina Mohammed (Lak) 5.90m. **5,000m walk:** Arti (Har) 24:33.15s.

Memorable day: Ashlin (100m) and Mubssina (long jump). • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

- Long jumper Mubssina Mohammed won Lakshwadeep's first National-level gold in athletics

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Ram Babu-Anvesh duo drives to victory

Ram Babu and Anvesh won the Pro Modified category in the third edition of the 4x4 Hampi Offroad Challenge in Hampi. The event, sponsored by Karnataka Tourism and Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports, is part of the Utsav de Hampi 2022 organised by Motorsport Academy of Vijayanagar.

The results (winners): Pro Modified: Ram Babu/Anvesh; **Modified:** Manoj/Santhosh; **Stock petrol:** Krishnakanth/Ashwin Shinde; **Stock diesel:** Naveen/Giri.

Easy for Stadium FC

Stadium FC defeated Rana Sports Association 4-2 in the under-18 section of the KSFA Premier League football tournament here.

The results: Under-9: Black Panthers bt Bangalore City FC 7-2; Bangalore Super Strikers bt Kickstart FC 2-1; Young Blues Elite bt Ronaldo FC 4-0; JSW BFC Academy bt Vickey FA 2-0; FCBU bt BYFL 3-0; Mysore Vijayanagara FA bt Raman FA 2-1.

U-11: Roots FS bt Sporthood FC 1-0; Coolulu FA bt MVFA 4-1.

U-18: BBFS drew with NEYFC 2-2; Stadium FC bt Rana SA 4-1.

Tackling the terrain: Action from the 4x4 Hampi Offroad Challenge. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Bengaluru Blues too good for Chinmaya Vidyalaya

Bengaluru Blues took out Chinmaya Vidyalaya 8-5 in the women's section of the BHA President's Cup 5-a-side hockey tournament here on Sunday.

The results: Women: Bengaluru Blues bt Chinmaya Vidyalaya B 5-3; Zenith HC bt Bishop Cotton 10-4.

Men: JFHA bt Rising Star 9-1; Rainbow HC bt Naveen HC 7-0; Rainbow HC bt Rising Star 9-1; JFHA bt Naveen HC 7-1 Falcon HC bt Bangalore United HC 9-2.

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